FBIS DAILY REPORT
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71ST ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE CONVENES

Delegates' Arrival

LD231536 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Summary] Delegates from Oman to the Arab League foreign ministers conference arrived in Mogadiscio today. Delegates already in Mogadiscio include those from Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain and Palestine.

Siad Barre's Opening Speech

LD242038 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] The 71st conference of the Council of Ministers of the Arab League officially opened in Mogadiscio this afternoon.

The conference, which is being fully attended by delegates from Arab countries, elected Somali Foreign Minister Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre as chairman.

The president's speech was read to the conference by Challe Ibrahim Meygag Samantar chairman of the Administration Bureau of the Central Committee of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP].

Somali President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said the Arab nations have surmounted thorny problems caused by the colonialists in the past and have waged a lengthy struggle for political independence to safeguard their sovereignty and human dignity. The president said that the independence struggle is not yet over, since there are many Arab peoples still fighting for their political independence. The 20th century is the century for the eradication of colonialism and the accomplishment of victory for freedom-fighters. It is certain that all Arab people still under colonialism will attain their freedom, Challe Siad Barre said.

The Arab people today control the source of economic power [words indistinct] and strategically important land, but in order to capitalize on these advantages it is of vital importance for us to safeguard unity, which is the basis for our existence.

Challe Mohamed Siad Barre pointed out that of paramount importance for the Arab people is the support they give to the Arab League, which came into being to deal with the problems that confront the Arab peoples and to enable our people to achieve self-sufficiency in the economic and cultural fields. Our unity is a force to be reckoned with and it affords us the opportunity to play an important role in promoting cooperation, security and worldwide (?stability) which will, in turn, enable us to participate in solving [words indistinct] problems, Challe Siad said.

Turning to the Horn of Africa, the president said the struggle of the people in that region has often been distorted and the superpowers have tried to cover things up and conceal the truth. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre pointed out that the superpowers are serving their own interests and competing in many areas, and have succeeded in controlling the rest of the world from strategic areas. [as heard] They are doing their best to take advantage of local differences in several areas, while at the same time stressing the basic principles of justice, humanitarianism and the rights of all people to decide their own destiny.

Challe Siad said: Just as there are those who condemn the struggle of the freedom fighters of Palestine, today there are those who condemn the freedom struggle of the Somali people, which they describe as an imperialist maneuver designed to thwart the so-called progressive revolution of Ethiopia. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre declared that there was never any harmony between the expansionist regime of Haile Selassie [as heard]; and he recalled the Somali uprisings which took place in those areas in 1948, 1954 and 1955--all of these being against Abyssinian colonialism and the ceding of Somali lands to Ethiopia. The president said that injustice and colonialism ought to be opposed and history ought to be corrected.

The struggle of the Western Somali people is aimed at these people attaining their right to decide their own destiny so as to restore their human dignity and independence. According to history, every people has a right to rid itself of the colonial yoke. This principle is accepted all over the world and is supported by the charters of the United Nations, Arab League and the OAU. The Western Somali and Abo people are only asking that this principle ought to be observed.

Turning to the Eritrean struggle, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre made it clear that it is the same as that of the Western Somali one, and he urged the Arab peoples to give this sad situation due consideration. They ought not to idly watch their brethren being annihilated before their eyes.

In his speech, Challe Siad mentioned the progress achieved by the people of Somalia since the revolution, saying it was hardly possible to attain this level of successes in a short time, but that the Somali people had managed to reach a high level of success in economic, political, cultural and social affairs after starting from a very low level [words indistinct] the extraordinary conference of the SRSP had produced positive resolutions.

Somali Foreign Minister's Remarks

LD251925 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] In a speech opening the Arab League foreign ministers conference, the foreign minister of the Somali Democratic Republic, Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre, said that this conference is taking place at a difficult period when there are differences and misunderstandings between some Arab countries. Therefore, it is imperative that the delegates at the conference concentrate on ironing out these differences. The minister added that despite the existence of differences, the Arab peoples are hopeful that the Arab League Council of Ministers conference will succeed in overcoming them and thus discharge its duty to the Arab people.

Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre said the situation in the Arab world today is disheartening, but we hope to overcome our difficulties by working diligently and carefully. The minister added that we must strengthen our unity, otherwise we will not realize the aspirations of the Arab people. For that reason, it is not proper to wreck in one day what has taken us more than 30 years to build. The minister hoped that the 71st conference of the Council of Ministers of the Arab League would produce decisions of benefit to the Arab peoples.

Proceedings of League Session

NC242345 Doha QNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Mogadiscio, 24 March--The 71st ordinary session of the Arab League Council began at the People's Hall here this evening. The session was opened by Ibrahim Meygag Samantar, representative of the Somali president.

After welcoming the delegations, he said that since the Israeli occupation of Palestine the Arab nation has been engaged in a bitter struggle for political independence.

He added: We are confident that all the Arab homelands will be liberated sooner or later.

He said that today the Arab nation possesses all the ingredients of power because it has manpower as well as the elements of prosperous economic integration, financial resources and important strategic position. He added: However, to benefit from all these resources we must maintain a minimum degree of Arab solidarity.

Ibrahim Samantar emphasized that revolution against injustice and national suppression is a right to which all peoples are legitimately entitled. He added: The people of Western Somalia request self-determination on their territory and demand the restoration of their freedom and national dignity.

He also said that the Eritrean case is identical to the case of Western Somalia. He appealed to the Arab brothers to take into consideration this appalling tragedy that is taking place on Arab territory.

Syrian representative Muhammad Khadr then made a brief speech in his capacity as representative of the country which chaired the previous session of the Arab League Council. On behalf of the council and himself, he thanked the president, government and people of Somalia for the efforts they made to convene this session in Mogadiscio. He then invited Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre to chair the meeting, wishing him success as chairman of this session.

After welcoming the delegations, the Somali foreign minister said: Our council is being held at a critical phase of our history and our Arab nation is suffering from division and differences. Despite this, the Arab nation is pinning hopes on us to accomplish the joint Arab action which the Arab League represents. He said: What is taking place in the [Arab] arena pains us but we hope to overcome this ordeal and to work to achieve the hopes for liberation, victory, dignity and prosperity because what unites us is stronger than what separates us.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad then delivered an address in which he expressed his hope for the success of the conferees. He addressed thanks to the government and people of Somalia for the efforts they have exerted in preparing for the meeting.

In his address, Riyad reviewed the economic and social achievements accomplished by joint Arab action through the Arab League.

Riyad also spoke about achievements in the political sphere, indicating that the Arab League had fought and struggled by various means until the number of the Arab League members rose from 7 states in 1945 to 21 states, in addition to the PLO, which is leading the battle of honor and independence for the liberation of Palestine.

Riyad reviewed the repeated Israeli aggressions up to 1967. He stressed that Israel will continue to be a source of threat to the security of the Arab nation. He said: We have spoken at length on numerous occasions about Arab resources, but we have failed to pool and utilize these resources. It is clear that the situation requires that serious political will and real readiness for sacrifice be available. He said that among the drawbacks from which joint Arab action is suffering are Arab differences, which are prevalent in the Arab world from its far east to its far west, at a time when disturbed international conditions surround the Arab nation in Africa and Asia.

Mahmud Riyad said: In the past, the Arab nation was exposed to numerous crises but I feel that the crisis through which it is passing today is threatening this edifice which it built during long years of joint Arab action.

He said: Arab unity is an objective in which I have believed throughout my life. I have done all I could to achieve the minimum unity of Arab action but the developments through which the Arab relations are passing have squandered this minimum and thus I have become incapable of continuing to perform the mission in which I believed and sought to achieve.

Mahmud Riyad then said that because of this he had handed in his resignation to the Arab kings and leaders before he came to Somalia.

Tahsin Bashir, Egypt's permanent delegate to the Arab League and head of its delegation, then spoke. He said that since its inception, the Arab League faced storms and differences of views and had withstood various imperialist and Zionist challenges. All this, he added, was due to the adherence of the great majority to the charter and its provisions and to their eagerness for the Arab League to continue to exist. He added that whenever the winds of division increased around us, reason, logic and the higher Arab interest prevailed.

The session then continued in secret.

Siad Barre, Riyad Meeting

LD251916 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] Challe Mohammed Siad Barre, secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and president of the Somali Democratic Republic, last night received Dr Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League at the presidential quarters in Mogadiscio. Challe Siad and Riyad discussed Arab affairs in depth and also current world affairs. Dr Riyad thanked Challe Siad for the brotherly (?welcome) he had received and for the good facilities provided for the Mogadiscio conference.

Mahmud Riyad's Address

LD251929 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] The secretary general of the Arab League, Dr Mahmud Riyad, addressed the conference yesterday on the lengthy struggle the Arab people for unity. He said that we believe if the aim is Arab unity, then continuous Arab cooperation is essential. On the achievements of the league, Dr Riyad said member states of the league played an important role in the creation of the non-aligned movement, in supporting liberation movements, especially in Africa, and in forging close cooperation between Arab governments, the EEC and African countries. Dr Riyad said the Arab League is the result of the Arab desire for unity.

Further Arrival of Delegations

LD251918 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Summary] Delegates from Tunisia, Sudan, Lebanon and Iraq arrived in Mogadiscio today and participated in the Arab League Council of Ministers conference at the People's Hall.

Further on Proceedings

LD251932 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] The 71st conference of the Arab League Council of Ministers, which opened in Mogadiscio yesterday afternoon, is (?concluding) its business this afternoon. The conference, which is being chaired by the Somali Democratic Republic Foreign Minister Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, proceeded smoothly with each delegation presenting its views in an orderly manner. During this morning's proceedings, delegates urged the secretary general to withdraw his resignation. The conference will close officially this afternoon at 1700.

Jordan's Ibrahim on Conference

LD251328 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 25 March, SNA--Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, has denied that attempts are being made to draw Jordan into signing parallel agreements with the Zionist enemy along the lines of the Camp David agreement.

The Jordanian minister, who is attending the Arab League Council meetings being held in Mogadiscio, confirmed that Jordan adheres to the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions. He said Jordan would be the first Arab country to do so. Hasan Ibrahim added in a statement to AL-JAZIRAH published today that there is coordination between Jordan and the kingdom in all fields, especially in relation to Arab and bilateral issues. The Jordanian minister expressed the hope that the Mogadiscio meetings will be successful and that their resolutions will be in the interest of the Arab nation.

Mahmud Riyad's Departure

LD252020 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Excerpt] The Arab League secretary general, the honorable Mahmud Riyad, left for Cairo today. Addressing reporters of the Ministry of Information at the airport, he expressed gratitude to the Somali Government for its warm welcome and smooth organization of the conference. Riyad said he was deeply impressed by the efforts of the president of the Somali Republic, Challe Mohammed Siad Barre, to unite the Arab people and by his able leadership of the Somali people toward development and unity. He wished Challe Siad success in his efforts.

Conclusion of League Meeting

LD251941 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] Challe Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, SDR foreign minister and chairman of the Arab League Council of Ministers conference, this afternoon officially closed the 71st Arab League Council of Ministers conference in Mogadiscio. In a short closing speech, Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre thanked all the delegates for their cooperation, which contributed to the smooth running and successful conclusion of the conference. Challe Abdurahman said: Although you have been with us only briefly, the memory of this occasion will remain in our hearts for a long time. The minister expressed the hope that the historic conference, which the Somali people value highly, will not be the last to be held in the Somali Republic. He wished all the delegates a safe journey home.

PLO: PALESTINIANS REJECT UN RESOLUTION 242

JN241521 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1315 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of 24 March statement by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, to correspondents of the Palestinian information media--read by announcer]

[Text] The PLO has repeatedly stated that it rejects UN Security Council Resolution 242 and has called on the UN Security Council to issue another resolution which will include the Palestinian people's national rights.

The European group at the United Nations tried to pass such a resolution in January 1977. However, the United States used its veto in the Security Council to block the resolution. This is clear evidence of the U.S. insistence on following the wrong path when dealing with the Middle East issue, and of its attempt to isolate the PLO and ignore the Palestinian people's national rights.

We announce that the PLO has not delegated any party whatsoever, whether Palestinian or Arab, to speak on its behalf. Our people inside and outside the occupied territories support the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Our people also refuse to allow any party other than the PLO to represent them.

What is happening now is an attempt by the United States, the leader of imperialism, to squander our people's rights by legalizing Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and by promoting the so-called autonomy plan. This will not lead to peace or to a comprehensive settlement. On the contrary, it will inevitably lead to further local disputes and to trouble in the entire area.

Resolution 242 views the Palestinian people as refugees and considers their cause as being one of borders and not of a people, ignoring the fact that this cause is one for liberation and for the return of a people to their homeland.

In view of all this, the PLO cannot make such a concession which harms the Palestinian people's basic rights.

The United States is trying to drag the Arab countries and the PLO into making concessions as it did with As-Sadat. As-Sadat's concessions forced him to squander all rights, including those of the Egyptian people. As-Sadat has become the captive of U.S. imperialism, which guides him as it wishes against the Egyptian people's rights and against those of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

However, we declare that the United States will not succeed in its attempts. The PLO is determined to struggle until it regains all of the Palestinian people's rights--including their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO LEONID BREZHNEV

NC232004 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 23 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, sent a message today to Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee, regarding the intention of the Egyptian regime to sign a surrender treaty with the Zionist-racist entity and to conclude a separate deal under the U.S. umbrella. The text of the message follows:

Comrade Leonid Brezhnev: Greetings of the revolution. You have undoubtedly followed the recent visit of President Carter to the area and the Israeli-Egyptian agreement to sign a separate peace [sulh] under the U.S. umbrella, which was offered by U.S. President Carter. The price of this was further concessions at the expense of the issue of our Palestinian people in order to impose on our people a new slavery under the so-called comedy of autonomy, through which they are trying to grant legitimacy to Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land and our Palestinian Arab people.

The lie of the fake peace for which President Carter, Begin and as-Sadat are propagandizing constitutes a violation of the human rights of the Palestinian and a flagrant aggression against our people and the UN resolutions which confirm the inalienable rights of our Palestinian Arab people to return to their homes, to self-determination and to establish their free and independent state on their national soil.

What has recently taken place and what will take place constitute a grave event threatening peace in our area, and, consequently, world peace. This is because what took place is not peace but surrender to the conditions of Israel and U.S. imperialism, acceptance of Israeli-U.S. extortion, and granting false legitimacy to the continued Israeli military occupation of our land and people and to the establishment of an Israeli-Egyptian alliance backed by the United States with all military means of support in order to create a new U.S. policeman in the area equipped with the most modern U.S. means of war and destruction.

This visit by the U.S. President was made in order to restore the policy of military alliances in the area by establishing this tripartite alliance among the United States, Israel, and the Egyptian regime in order to further inflame and aggravate the situation in the area and push the whole area into the furnace of a horrible conflict, especially after the collapse of the old U.S. alliance which constituted a hostile ring around our area. I am referring to the CENTO alliance whose central base was Iran. The Iranian people were able by their mighty revolution to free themselves and dissolve this diabolic and dangerous alliance to the area.

While looking to the friendly Soviet Union to stand with it in this new tragedy which they face as a result of this tripartite plot hatched by the United States and Israel and the agent Egyptian regime, and while looking in particular to the friend of the Palestinian people, Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, the Palestinian Arab people are confident that the people of the Soviet Union, the champions of freedom, peace and justice, will not abandon the Palestinian people in their just struggle and resistance to this new plot against them and their future, and that the friendly Soviet Union will support the rights of our people and help them with all their capabilities and on all levels to foil this plot against our people and support our struggle to achieve their inalienable national rights, which have been recognized by the international community through the UN resolutions.

On my behalf and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian Arab people, I offer greetings and thanks to our friend Leonid Brezhnev and the friendly people of the Soviet Union for all the aid, support, and backing which the Soviet Union extends to our people in their just cause, particularly in these difficult circumstances and the new plot against them and against their rights and future.

Revolution until victory.

'ARAFAT SENDS LETTER TO WALDHEIM ON MIDEAST ACCORD

JN241802 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1305 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of 24 March letter from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim]

[Text] Mr UN Secretary General:

You have undoubtedly been following the latest developments which have occurred in our area following the U.S. President's recent visit and the Egyptian-Israeli agreement to conclude a separate peace under the auspices of President Carter at the expense of our Palestinian people.

You are aware that the U.S. President has personally arranged this latest agreement, ignoring all appropriate international institutions as well as all international resolutions on this conflict and on how to achieve a just and lasting peace in the area. It is obvious that this Egyptian-Israeli treaty has been restricted, as announced, to an agreement on partial issues whose settlement will never lead to a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. President Carter has ignored the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights. These are considered the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestinian people are the principal victims of the atrocious Israeli aggression launched with the full support and assistance of the United States.

All the UN debates and resolutions and the history of this long struggle have repeatedly stressed that this issue should be completely and comprehensively solved. Any partial or separate solution will lead to further tension and to the escalation of the dispute in the area. The results achieved by this agreement will inevitably encourage the Israeli aggressor to commit further aggression after he has been rewarded with what he will obtain from this agreement.

These rewards are Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territory, and even of Egyptian territory, and the establishment of humiliating conditions regarding Egyptian sovereignty over this territory. This is in addition to Israel's ignoring all other aspects of the dispute and its receiving huge financial assistance together with unprecedented military assistance.

Is it not strange that the so-called peace agreement will be accompanied by the largest shipment of U.S. arms to the Middle East in recent history? There is also President Carter's defiance of the UN resolutions, especially those on Jerusalem and on the Palestinian people and their rights. President Carter was the first U.S. President to hold official talks with leaders of the Zionist aggression in Jerusalem. This will give them justification for their desire to annex the city.

Our Palestinian people have unanimously rejected this agreement and all its results, especially the proposals on the suspect autonomy plan which will legalize the occupation and our people's new enslavement. The Israeli prime minister has stressed that this self-rule will not include the territories which continue under Israeli occupation and that Israel will continue to establish settlements in these territories. By this statement, the Israeli prime minister has intentionally or unintentionally revealed the dimensions of the dangerous conspiracy against our people, their rights, their land and their future.

All the Arab countries have rejected this agreement despite the pressures which the United States has exerted and continues to exert. All the other peace-loving countries have also rejected this agreement despite the fact that this agreement has been depicted to them as a contribution to peace. These countries are aware that this agreement will not achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East and that it does not solve the crux of the dispute--the Palestinian cause, and the fate of the Palestinian people and of their just and inalienable rights. Ignoring these rights and concluding agreements which are contrary to these rights constitute blatant aggression against the United Nations and its resolutions. They also constitute a serious violation of the will of the international community and encourage the aggressor to continue his aggression.

We hope that this treaty will not acquire any international legitimacy which the United States will seek to obtain to peddle this agreement--an agreement which threatens the area with explosion and exposes world security and stability to danger.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm to you the Palestinian peoples determination to continue making various efforts to entrench their right to return, to exercise their right of self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil. These rights have been confirmed by UN resolutions. We are confident of the support of the international community for our people in their just struggle for freedom and for a just and firm peace.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES APPEAL AGAINST TREATY

JN242219 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 March--The PLO has stressed that the separate peace agreement between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist entity is a serious conspiracy which aims at squandering the Palestinian people's rights, and at dividing Arab ranks and isolating Egypt from its Arab nation.

In an appeal to the Palestinian masses, the Arab nation and all friendly forces, the PLO Executive Committee today stated that the Palestinian cause is now being exposed to a serious conspiracy as a result of the treasonous agreement between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist enemy.

The PLO Executive Committee added that the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied territories have unanimously refused to submit to the conspiratorial forces, and have risen up against the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary schemes and reaffirmed their adherence to national unity and their determination to regain their right to establish their independent national state.

The appeal explains that the Arab nation has voiced its rejection of this disgraceful agreement and considers it to be a blatant violation of Arab unanimity and Arab consensus. The Arab nation also considers this agreement to stand in defiance of the Arab nation's will and of its right to liberate the occupied Arab territories and protect the Palestinian people's inalienable right to their homeland.

The PLO Executive Committee vehemently criticized As-Sadat's capitulationist policy and his acquiescence to the imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial schemes against the Arab nation and its legitimate objectives.

The PLO Executive Committee also stressed that the masses, which have foiled all the colonialist agreements and which have continued their struggle for the last 15 years, are capable of foiling this agreement and frustrating the objectives of its signatories.

Concluding its appeal, the PLO Executive Committee stressed that our masses will continue their victorious march to encircle treason and defeat capitulation.

PFLP CALLS FOR SEVERING ECONOMIC TIES WITH U.S.

JN251955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1752 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 March--The PFLP has called for severing Arab economic relations with U.S. imperialism, (?a stop) to the flow of Arab oil to the United States and turning the [words indistinct] of the investments of U.S. monopolies into an area of attrition for these monopolies.

In a statement released today, the PFLP says that striking at imperialist interests should be foremost among Arab goals during this stage, which requires the strongest of measures and methods of struggle so as to confront the capitulationist agreement between As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy.

The statement calls for turning 26 March into a new starting point in the life of the Palestinian revolution and people. The statement emphasizes that confronting the treacherous conspiracy, opposing it and foiling it, is the responsibility of all revolutionary and democratic forces and of Arab progressive and nationalist regimes.

The statement maintains that the present conspiracy not only requires the implementation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit, but also requires severing economic relations with U.S. imperialism, stopping the flow of Arab oil to the United States and turning the Arab economy into a war economy to face all eventualities.

The statement calls on the PLO to immediately withdraw its representative accredited to the Egyptian regime so that this will be the [words indistinct] along this road.

In conclusion, the PFLP statement asserts that the Arab popular conference, the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, and the Charter for Joint National Action between Syria and Iraq are so far the clearest formulas on the Arab popular and official levels, and that these formulas are facing great responsibility during the present stage.

FATAH's ABU IYAD CALLS FOR ARAB-SOVIET ALLIANCE

JN251945 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] A great popular rally was held this morning in Tyre on the first anniversary of the victory of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in the Al-Karamah battle in southern Lebanon. The rally was also held in solidarity with the evacuees from southern Lebanon. Attending the rally were a great number of the Palestinian revolution's cadres, representatives of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, commanders of the joint forces in southern Lebanon, and a large crowd of Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Brother Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, made a speech on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and [name indistinct] made a speech on behalf of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

In his speech, brother Abu Iyad attacked the traitorous and disgraceful agreement between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity under the auspices of the United States, the leader of imperialism.

Abu Iyad called for forming a strategic alliance between the Front of Confrontation and Steadfastness and the progressive national forces, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union, on the other, so as to confront the tripartite alliance now being planned in Washington.

Commenting on British Prime Minister James Callaghan's statement, Abu Iyad warned the European countries that we will deal with them as we do with the United States as long as they support the U.S. policy and the treaty of treason. Abu Iyad said: We will look at the European interests in the area as we view U.S. interests.

Abu Iyad praised the Palestinian-Lebanese militant cohesion. He said: We will defend every inch of Lebanon side by side with the Lebanese Nationalist Progressive Movement.

Abu Iyad said that this year is the year for determining who stands with As-Sadat and who is against him in the Arab area. From now on we will not accept promises and [words indistinct], because words are not enough and they have lost their meaning. We will reject anyone who justifies relations with As-Sadat out of concern about the Egyptian people. As-Sadat must be totally isolated until he is overthrown.

Abu Iyad stressed that Arab solidarity will be genuine when it stands with the Palestinian revolution.

Abu Iyad praised Algeria whose president, Chadli Bendjedid, has reiterated what departed martyr Houari Boumediene said: I am with Palestine whether oppressor or oppressed. Abu Iyad said Palestine was always the oppressed, and not the oppressor.

In commenting on certain regimes trying--on orders from the United States--to create problems for certain Arab countries, Abu Iyad warned that we will lie in wait for any aggression against any of the countries of the Front of Confrontation and Steadfastness.

PARTICIPANTS IN 27 MARCH BAGHDAD MEETING LISTED

JN251156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1147 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--It has been learned that so far 14 [as received] countries have agreed to attend the meeting of the Arab foreign and economic ministers in Baghdad on Tuesday. These countries are: Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, the Yar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the PDRY.

The Foreign Ministry has formed a secretariat to supervise the conference which is aimed at implementing the executive measures of the Baghdad summit resolutions against the Egyptian regime immediately upon As-Sadat's signing of the capitulationist treaty with the Zionist entity.

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOGADISCIO CONFERENCE

JN260903 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0650 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 26 March--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah returned to Manama from Mogadiscio at an early hour this morning after attending the meetings of the 71st session of the Arab League Council which ended there yesterday.

During its sessions, the council adopted several resolutions related to the items on its agenda, including the Arab and international situations, African-Arab cooperation, and the renewal of the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon for 3 more months.

During his stay in Mogadiscio, Shaykh Muhammad met with Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and discussed with him relations between Bahrain and Somalia. Shaykh Muhammad also had talks with several Arab foreign ministers, the chairmen of the Arab delegations, and the Arab League secretary general on the recent developments in the Arab area.

SAUDI PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI ARRIVES 24 MAR

JN241912 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 24 March--Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, arrived in Manama this evening on a visit to Bahrain during which he will attend the opening of the Middle East oil exhibition tomorrow morning. He was received at the airport by Mr Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry.

Yamani is scheduled to leave for Geneva tomorrow to attend the OPEC conference which begins on 26 March.

Amir, Yamani Meeting

JN250904 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 March--Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah this morning received Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, heir apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, and Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry.

KUWAIT

CABINET REVIEWS TIMING OF YEMENI SUMMIT, BAGHDAD MEETING

ID251434 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 25 March, KUNA--'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, has said that efforts are being made to fit in the Yemeni summit to be held here next Wednesday with the Arab foreign ministers conference called for by Iraq and scheduled for next Tuesday.

Kuwait had asked for a postponement of the foreign ministers conference to the first week of next month to allow for the Yemeni summit while Iraq wanted the summit postponed to the 31st of this month in favor of the foreign ministers' conference.

Husayn said after the Cabinet's weekly session, which was chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, that the Cabinet heard a report from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, about these two meetings. He announced that the PDRY and YAR foreign ministers will arrive here tomorrow to begin preparations for the Yemeni summit. He said the two ministers will leave for Baghdad on the same plane as Shaykh Sabah.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OBJECTS TO YEMENI TALKS' POSTPONEMENT

LD241452 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that his country cannot ask for the postponement of the reconciliation summit conference between the two parts of Yemen set to be held here this Wednesday. Iraq and Syria had asked that the bilateral summit be postponed until Saturday to make way for the Arab ministerial talks. The Iraqi Government called for these talks to be held in Baghdad this Tuesday to consider steps against Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat after he signs the peace treaty with Israel.

Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait, in its capacity as host country, could not ask for the postponement of the date, set for 28 March. He went on to add that the matter was left to the two presidents: 'Ali Abdallah Salih of North Yemen and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il of South Yemen in the light of the contacts by Iraq and Syria on this matter. Shaykh Sabah was addressing journalists after separate meetings with the ambassador of Iraq, Thamir Razuqi ash-Shaykhli, and the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Democratic Yemen, Qasim Ahmad Na'man.

Following his meeting with Shaykh Sabah, Mr Na'man said that his country still desired the convening of the bilateral summit in Kuwait on the date set for it. He went on to add that all parties concerned, including the host country, Kuwait, had previously agreed on the date. He announced that the foreign ministers of parts of the Yemen will meet in Kuwait on Monday at the suggestion of the Yemen Arab Republic in preparation for the bilateral summit. He said that the South Yemen foreign minister was due here tomorrow to attend the preliminary talks.

RELUCTANCE TO HOST ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS VOICED

JN231528 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 23 March--It was announced here today that Kuwait does not favor transfering Arab League headquarters to Kuwait and believes that the headquarters should be in another Arab country.

Quoting Kuwaiti sources, the Kuwaiti weekly newspaper AN-NAHDAH explained that Kuwait is completely ready to provide Arab League employees will all the necessary facilities. However, it prefers and encourages any decision which will transfer the Arab League headquarters to another Arab country.

Citing Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the newspaper AN-NAHDAH said that if the brother Arabs insist on establishing Arab League headquarters in Kuwait, then Kuwait will have no objection. However, Kuwait will continue to request that Arab League headquarters be transferred to another Arab country.

Nasir Qaddur, Syrian deputy foreign minister, said yesterday that the venue of the new Arab League headquarters has been decided and that it will be made public at the Arab foreign ministers conference scheduled to begin in Baghdad next Tuesday.

OIL MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES FOR GENEVA

JN241452 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 24 March--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah today left Kuwait for Geneva to attend the consultative ministerial meeting of the OPEC which will begin there Monday.

Prior to his departure, Shaykh 'Ali said that during the meeting, the means of coordination and cooperation among the OPEC member states regarding the questions of oil and its marketing will be discussed.

Shaykh 'Ali also said that they will discuss all the developments which have taken place in the oil market since the last ministerial conference held in Abu Dhabi late last year.

FOREIGN MINISTER REGRETS MAHMUD RIYAD'S RESIGNATION

ID251312 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 March, KUNA--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has expressed regret at the resignation of Mahmud Riyad, Arab League secretary general, and urged him to withdraw his resignation "as a service to Arab causes and the interests of the Arab League."

Shaykh as-Sabah said in press statements published here today that the departure of Mahmud Riyad from the Arab League "is a big loss to Arab action and the Arab League."

Shaykh as-Sabah refused to nominate a successor to Mahmud Riyad and said that this is premature.

On the possibility of the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Cairo after Egypt signs the peace treaty with Israel tomorrow, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the Baghdad summit resolutions are very clear and that the transfer of the Arab League headquarters would be temporary. He added that Cairo will remain the permanent headquarters of the Arab League "because Egypt will remain Arab and what it is undergoing presently is temporary."

CABINET BRIEFED ON MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

ID251350 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 25 March, KUNA--During its weekly meeting, held today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, the Council of Ministers was briefed on the contents of a message received recently by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, from the Soviet leaders.

'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, said after the meeting that the message was about the Middle East problem, the position of the Soviet Union on the latest moves, and its call for a comprehensive and just settlement, a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories, and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr Husayn added that the Soviet leaders reaffirmed that the Soviet position at the United Nations and at the Security Council will firmly adhere to this line.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD ENTERS SPANISH HOSPITAL

ID251632 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Mar, SNA--The Royal Cabinet today issued the following communique: His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, has arrived in Spain and been admitted to a hospital there for a medical examination following a resurgance of the pain he suffered as a result of the surgical operation his highness underwent a few years ago. May God bestow health and recovery on his highness.

UAE

PRESIDENT CALLS ON CITIZENS NOT TO DEMONSTRATE

JN252036 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 March--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has called on the UAE citizens to stop staging popular marches [word indistinct] so as to preserve public order [words indistinct]. In a statement today the president said that he and his brothers, the members of the Supreme Federal Council, are very anxious to realize the aims and aspirations of the UAE citizens. Popular marches were recently held in the UAE in support of the demands for a (?stronger) federation among the seven Emirates.

DELEGATION TO ATTEND BAGHDAD ARAB MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

JN260908 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0710 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 March--The UAE has agreed to participate in the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference which will be held in Baghdad tomorrow in implementation of the recommendations of the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad. This was stated by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry today.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES FATAH OFFICIAL WITH 'ARAFAT MESSAGE

JN231312 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 March--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a verbal message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the current developments and the recent situation in the region ensuing from the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and its results.

The message was conveyed to his highness by Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, when his highness received him at Al-Bahr Palace this morning.

Abu Mazin praised the firm principled stand of the UAE president, government and people on the Palestinian cause and Arab rights. Abu Mazin then briefed the president on what has been accomplished on the level of Palestinian-Jordanian relations, considering this accomplishment a positive step in confronting the Israeli schemes, which aim at consecrating the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian soil and liquidating the cause, territory, revolution and people.

The meeting was attended by Ribhi 'Awad, PLO office representative to the state.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS YAR WILL IMPLEMENT BAGHDAD RESOLUTIONS

JN260936 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 26 March--YAR Foreign Minister Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri has stated that his country will implement the Baghdad summit resolutions if As-Sadat signs the peace agreement with the Zionist entity.

In a statement to INA, Al-'Amri said that the YAR sides with Arab unanimity and supports the Baghdad summit resolutions.

NEW MINISTERS SWORN IN BEFORE PRESIDENT SALIH

JN241918 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office today borthers Muhammad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Lt Col Lutfi al-Kilabi, minister of state and adviser to the prime minister on information and cultural affairs; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of information and culture; Husayn al-'Amri, minister of foreign affairs; Lt Col Muhammad Khamis, minister of the interior; and Husayn al-Qubaysi, minister of state and adviser to the President and the Prime Minister. They were sworn in before the president and the commander in chief.

The ceremony was attended by brothers Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly; Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani; and 'Ali al-Matari, director of the president's office.

The president then chaired a meeting of the ministers and advisers. He gave them instructions and guidance regarding their new tasks. The president said: We have placed our trust in you and you must assume your responsibilities during the current stage through which our country is passing. Our people expect maximum efforts from you for the development and construction of the country. I wish you success in your work.

The ministers and advisers showed complete understanding for the president's instructions. They stated that they will not spare any efforts in the service of the country.

AS-SADAT, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON 24 MARCH

NC240849 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0826 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Mrs as-Sadat left Cairo for Washington at 1000 today. The president will sign the peace treaty in Washington on Monday.

The president was seen off at the airport by Vice President Husni Mubarak and his wife; presidential assistant Sayyid Mar'i; Mamduh Salim; adviser at the presidency, Lt Gen 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi; general supervisor of the specialized councils, Dr 'Abd al-Qadir Hatim; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib; Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Fikri 'Ubayd; the president's military adviser, Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahimi; chief of staff of the armed forces, Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi; armed forces commanders; ministers; the U.S. charge in Cairo; and the Italian ambassador in his capacity as dean of the diplomatic corps.

The Egyptian official delegation accompanied President as-Sadat aboard the same plane. The delegation consists of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and his wife; Deputy Prime Minister at the Presidency Hasan at-Tuhami; Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Hamid as-Sayih; Planning Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali; the chief of the president's office, Hasan Kamil; Manpower Minister Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad; Finance Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi; the engineers' doyen, Eng 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman; People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Sayyid 'Ali as-Sayyid; Foreign Ministry first under secretary, Dr Usamah al-Baz; Grand Chamberlain Fu'ad Taymur; and acting chief aide de camp, Brig Gen Hasan 'Alam.

The popular and information delegation had left Cairo early this morning.

Asked what his feelings were when embarking on this historic trip, President as-Sadat said: I am indeed happy, but wait until I reach there.

AL-BAZ DISCUSSES TREATY IN INTERVIEW WITH AL-MUSTAQBAL

NC250010 Cairo MENA in English 2200 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Paris, March 24 (MENA)--Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian first undersecretary of foreign affairs, affirmed that the steps taken by Egypt on the road of peace brought nearer the achievement of Arab objectives.

In an interview with Paris-based Arabic magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL, Dr al-Baz said Egypt's concept of the nature of the Middle East conflict and its dimensions had not changed and its political view of Israel would continue to be governed by the way Israel will be dealing with the cause of the Palestine people.

The Egyptian official spoke of the Egyptian move towards peace within the framework of Arab targets. He underlined two facts in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict. The first, he said, is that the Arabs accept co-existence with Israel as borne out by their approval of Security Council Resolution 242 which signified that they agreed to live in peace with and to recognise Israel. "The Baghdad conference had emphasised that principle." Second is that Israel should fulfil the necessary condition for that co-existence; namely, withdrawal from all the Arab land occupied in 1967 and enabling the Palestine people to set up a state on its land.

Dr al-Baz said the Egyptian move on the road of peace would achieve Arab objectives since the majority of the Israeli society has come to believe in the possibility of living in peace with the Arabs. Further, the Israelis' concept of co-existence with the Palestine people would change no doubt over the next years despite Israel's apparent adherence to reactionary and even racial concepts when viewing the Palestine case.

Dr al-Baz said Egypt in its quest for peace has given up no Palestinian right. "Neither Egypt nor any other country has the authority to forgo those rights. Further, Egypt has no interest in taking such action."

Dr al-Baz said Egypt's interest conforms with that of Palestine more than Palestinian interests conform with those of any other Arab state having common borders with Israel. "We have firm interest in the establishment of a Palestinian state which is able to face up to the Israeli challenge, culturally and economically, in that important part of the world having direct bearing on our strategic security. Further, we are not shackled, like other Arab brothers, by ideological concepts which conflict with the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity," he said.

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS ON MILITARY ASPECT OF AGREEMENT

NC250801 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--Maj Gen Hasan Abu Sa'dah, chief of operations of the armed forces, has stated that the peace agreement clearly stipulates that all the Israeli Armed Forces will withdraw from the whole of Sinai. He added that the withdrawal will also include all Israeli civilians in Sinai.

Major General Abu Sa'dah pointed out that the international border between Egypt and Palestine is the Egyptian-Palestinian border specified in the 1 October 1906 agreement and in the 1922 declaration on the British mandate in Palestine, that is, before Israel existed in the area.

He added: The question of the international borders is a political subject, but when we talk about it militarily we say that it is the line extending from (Ra's Taba) in the south to Tall al-Khara'ib on the Rafah coast on the Mediterranean. It is defined by 91 stone markers in the shape of an incomplete pyramid with a base 1 meter by 1 meter, standing between 2 and 2 and 1/2 meters high, in addition to clear elevated signs specified in the 1906 agreement.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM published in its Sunday edition, the chief of operations says that the Israelis will reduce their military presence in area "D" inside the Israeli borders east of the Egyptian borders, and that the security arrangements entitle them to keep no more than four battalions in that area.

Referring to the balance in the security arrangements between Egypt and Israel, Major General Abu Sa'dah says that the military appendix strikes a balance between the Israeli Army's defense capability and protection of its territory and the Egyptian Army's defense capability and protection of its territory. These capabilities differ, according to the organization and armaments as well as the conditions and defense plans of the armed forces of each state.

Major General Abu Sa'dah said that what is achieved under the agreement, whether regarding the size of the forces in the areas "A" and "B" or the definition of the dividing lines between the areas in Sinai, gives Egypt a sound military position and strong capabilities to insure the security and safety of the state's territory and defend it efficiently, particularly since our main forces will deploy and operate fully up to east of the passes line. The police forces, equipped with helicopters and coastal patrol boats, will protect and secure our borders and shores in area "C", which comprises the international borders and territorial waters in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Mediterranean.

Discussing the military advantages Egypt will have as a result of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Sinai, Major General Abu Sa'dah said: I must first explain that Israel will lose several military advantages as a result of its withdrawal from Sinai and the return of its forces to the Negev desert within its territory. On the other hand, our armed forces will achieve several advantages which will enable them to carry out their tasks in securing this flank. The more important thing is that this withdrawal will give our armed forces a stronger and better strategic position.

Major General Abu Sa'dah said that the obligations specified in the military annex are temporary arrangements, as stipulated in paragraph 4 of Article IV; in other words, these obligations could be changed.

Enumerating the military advantages Egypt will have as a result of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Sinai, Major General Abu Sa'dah said: For the first time certain restrictions and obligations have resulted from the agreement, which also provides for the presence of UN observers inside Israeli territory. With the progress of science and arms technology, the question of distances has become insignificant as long as they do not affect the capability of any side. By reading the agreement and the documents and annexes pertaining to the military aspect, we find out that the distance allocated inside Israel east of the international border line as an area of operations for the UN observers is compatible with the area of operations for the UN observers inside Sinai west of the internal border line, if we take into consideration the area and depth of each state.

Major General Abu Sa'dah said that the building of two new airbases inside Israel to replace the airbases which will be handed over to Egypt will not give Israel any additional military advantages, particularly since Israel already has several bases in Israel and in the Negev desert.

Concerning area "C", which is the ara of operations for the UN forces in Sinai, Major General Abu Sa'dah said that Egypt will exercise full sovereignty over all Sinai. The Egyptian flag will fly everywhere in Sinai, and Egyptian police forces will operate in all the areas to protect these areas and the Sinai coasts. The areas in Sharm Ash-Shaykh and Rafah where UN forces will be stationed will be decided upon in consultation and agreement with Egypt.

Concluding his statement, Maj General Abu Sa'dah said that the October 1973 victory was the practical base from which the political leadership set out to lead a ferocious political battle which was crowned with success. The Camp David agreements were the beginning of serious work aimed at achieving a balance between the provisionsof the peace agreement and Egypt's security demands.

BUTRUS GHALI DISCUSSES ASPECTS OF PEACE

NC250900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that after the signing of the peace treaty and the complementary agreements Egypt will try to contact the Palestinian leaderships to get them to participate with the Egyptian delegation in the negotiations of the issue of autonomy. These negotiations are to be held 1 month after the signing of the treaty and its ratification.

In a statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine, which will be published Monday, he said that if the contacts succeed, the Egyptian negotiating delegation will include a group of Palestinians. But if these contacts produce no positive results, then the Egyptian delegation will be formed without Palestinians.

Dr Ghali explained that this does not mean breaking off the co tacts with the Palestinians, because Egypt will continue to be interested in knowing the wishes and proposals of the representatives of the Palestinian people regarding the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and will communicate these wishes and proposals to the U.S. and Israeli sides during the forthcoming talks.

The minister of state for foreign affairs affirmed that as soon as the negotiations on the issue of autonomy begin, Egypt will present a full visualization of the autonomy system in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and will give priority to the issue of unity between the two areas.

Dr Ghali said that if difficulties should arise in the West Bank, we may begin holding elections in the Gaza Strip as an example, on the one hand, and on the basis of the West Bank's agreement to join the system operating in the Gaza Strip, on the other. Egypt totally rejects the interpretation that the holding of elections in the Gaza Strip before the West Bank represents a division of the Palestinian entity.

The magazine says that after the treaty is ratified and goes into effect, Egypt will begin contacts with the Security Council member states and the UN secretary general to extend the mandate of the UN emergency forces, which ends in June. These contacts will concentrate on the need to keep these forces within the new framework of the peace treaty and its military annex, since their presence now is within the framework of the first and second disengagement of forces agreements. Egyptian political circles do not expect any of the big powers in the Security Council to raise any obstacles regarding the renewal of the mandate within the new framework.

In an interview with OCTOBER magazine published today, Dr Butrus Ghali says that the future negotiations on the Palestinian issue in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will begin in May, or perhaps late April. The negotiations will deal with the establishment of the Palestinian national authority on the Palestinian land. These negotiations will prove the genuineness of the Egyptian position, which is committed to the return of Arab Jerusalem and the restoration of the legitimate Palestinian rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It will make it clear to the whole world that Egypt has sought and is seeking a comprehensive settlement and will continue to lead the Arab struggle and to shoulder its national obligations, whether some people like it or not.

Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt will continue to shoulder its obligations toward the Palestinian people and their just issue. Egypt has abided by these obligations since it entered the first war in 1948.

Dr Ghali pointed out that the future negotiations will be difficult, more difficult than many people can imagine. He said that he fully hopes that the customary Israeli maneuvers and adherence to outdated concepts of expansion and other things will not poison the thoughts toward our genuine efforts to normalize relations with the Israeli people. This normalization will make it possible to forget the bitter past and look forward to a bright future of cooperation for the benefit of all peoples.

He said that the positions which the Israeli Government takes during the hard negotiations we will hold will be the true indicator of its desire to convince the Egyptian people and government of the sincerity of Israel's peace aims.

Concerning the impact of the treaty on Egypt's future foreign relations, Dr Ghali said that the treaty will herald a new era for relations in the Middle East, which has been a scene of wars for many years. The Egyptian-Israeli treaty will stop the tendency toward wars and military confrontations and will open the way to the peaceful solution of problems and to the achievement of the rights and the protection of the security of all the peoples and states in the region.

Concerning the impact of the treaty on Egyptian-Israeli relations, Dr Ghali said that the establishment of peace between the two countries will lead to the normalization of relations between them. The two countries will exchange ambassadors, as well as having trade, economic and other relations, within the framework of the rules of international law, the UN Charter and nonintervention in internal affairs.

Dr Ghali noted that the establishment of relations between Egypt and Israel in the various fields will not be done immediately. As stipulated in the provisions of the treaty, Egypt and Israel will hold negotiations on a case-by-case basis. For example, concerning economic, trade and cultural relations, both parties are committed to entering talks 6 months after the completion of the first interim withdrawal in order to reach an agreement in this regard; in other words, 15 months after the ratification of the treaty.

Concerning the future of Arab relations and the impact of the peace treaty on these relations, Dr Ghali said that some Arab brothers will adopt a balanced and objective stand and will treat the situation with reason while searching for facts. They will also recognize the positive and constructive elements in the treaty and the agreements appended to it, particularly those pertaining to the Palestinian aspect. These brothers agree with us that what has been accomplished is a step--but a big one--along the correct course. He also noted that others, regrettably, will resort to maneuvers and outbiddings, which serve neither the interests of the Arab nation nor the Palestinian people; instead they serve selfish, partisan motives that cannot deceive the Arab nation.

Dr Ghali said: My comment on everything that is happening is that I am really sorry for them and for what their outbiddings are doing to the causes of Arab struggle. I am also sorry for all the energy which certain Arabs will waste in slandering and cursing. The bright facts, however, will shut out these tongues.

Concluding his statement, Dr Ghali affirmed that the peace treaty is an important first step toward a comprehensive peace and toward a settlement of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He explained that the treaty calls on the other Arab parties to participate in the peace process on the basis of and guided by the principles of peace between Egypt and Israel. The treaty also reaffirms the urgent need to establish peace in the area in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. All the Arab states have accepted these resolutions and have affirmed their acceptance at several Arab summit meetings.

OCTOBER PUBLISHES TEXT OF AS-SADAT LETTER TO ARAB LEADERS

NC242155 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--In its Sunday edition, OCTOBER magazine publishes the text of President Anwar as-Sadat's letter to 10 Arab kings and heads of state on the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The following is the text of the letter, which was delivered by Minister of State Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali to the ambassadors of the 10 states when he met with them last week:

Following our custom of consulting with you on matters of interest to our two countries and our glorious nation, I have been eager to put you in the picture regarding the talks held during President Carter's recent visit within the framework of his efforts to bridge the gap between us and Israel, especially regarding the Palestine problem. The aim was to set out to solve this problem through specific measures and arrangements, starting now and continuing with acceleration so that Israel would not be able to impose a continuation of the status quo or to persist in its policy of changing the structure and population conditions in the West Bank and Gaza.

You know that President Carter decided to come to the area when it was not possible to resolve some of the points in his talks with Begin in the U.S. capital, although he had managed to draw up new formulas regarding the other outstanding questions to increase the chances of agreement.

When President Carter arrived in Cairo last Thursday, he submitted to me some ideas which he had formulated regarding the letter to be exchanged on autonomy in the West Bank and the interpretation of some articles of the Egyptian-Israeli draft treaty.

I made a point of emphasizing the following points to the U.S. President--points which had been the subject of discussion with him on previous occasions:

1. That the circumstances through which the region is passing at this stage make it necessary that the United States bring pressure to bear on Israel, and that without such pressure it would be unlikely that Israel would move toward peace--a matter which would increase the tension and the possibility of an explosion in the region.

2. That the Arab states can fill any gap in the region and deter any foreign intervention, and that all they want is to be given the means to enable them to defend themselves individually and collectively.

3. That stability in the region depends to a large extent on the settlement of the Palestine question as the core of the conflict, and that it is not true that Israel can provide the required stability in the area.

4. That the conditions of the Palestinian brothers in the Gaza Sector and the West Bank must, beginning now, be improved in such a way as to encourage them to establish their autonomous government. This matter requires understanding between us and the U.S. side regarding the powers and jurisdictions of the autonomous government, and so that there will be large-scale powers extending to the executive, legislative and judicial fields, and including Jerusalem as part of the West Bank, on the basis that the United States agrees with us in rejecting the measures annexing it to Israel.

5. That Israel has nothing to do with Egypt's Arab commitments because this is an Egyptian matter which concerns our national security and strategic interests, and that all it can ask is that we honor our commitments under the treaty.

6. That under the state of peace, which must extend to the Palestinian people, we have no objection to normalizing relations with Israel, parallel with progress toward peace, but we are not prepared to give Israel any preferential status or establish special relations with it.

After studying the formulas prepared by President Carter and discussed by him and Begin in Washington, we asked him to introduce some modifications to them. We also discussed with him an Egyptian memorandum on the jurisdictions of the autonomous government in the West Bank and Gaza.

The U.S. President then went to Israel and held talks with officials there. These talks passed through several crises, as reported by the news agencies, but in the end he managed to stick to the basic points I specified to him, and he managed to solve the most important pending questions, as follows:

1. Regarding autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, a one-draft [presumably one version] letter will be exchanged between Egypt and Israel, stating that it stems from the framework for comprehensive peace signed at Camp David on 17 September, and stipulating the following:

A. Within 1 month after the ratification of the peace agreement Egypt and Israel shall begin negotiations to agree on the election rules and the powers of the Palestinian autonomous government.

B. Egypt and Israel shall strive to conclude these negotiations within 1 year, so that the elections will be held as soon as possible and so that the autonomous government will be formed within 1 month [after the elections].

C. The Egyptian delegation to the negotiations may include Palestinian elements.

D. There is an open invitation for Jordan to join the negotiations.

E. The aim is to give the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza full autonomy.

F. The Israeli military government and civilian administration will be abolished as soon as the Palestinian autonomous government is formed.

G. Simultaneously, some Israeli forces shall withdraw and the remaining forces shall be deployed in specified points outside residential areas.

H. The United States pledges to participate effectively in all stages of the negotiations.

Meanwhile, at our request, Israel agreed to promise, in a separate document, to take certain steps to improve political conditions in the West Bank and the Gaza Sector, including lifting the ban on political activities, releasing political detainees and allowing the return of refugees to reunite families.

2. Regarding the interpretation of some of the treaty's provisions to which we had objected, the U.S. side submitted a draft. The most important points in it are:

A. A stipulation that Egypt will have sovereignty over every part of Sinai from which Israel withdraws, without waiting for the completion of the withdrawal.

B. A clarification that either side has the right to ask for modification of the security arrangements--reduction of forces, specification of weapons, and presence of the UN forces--in which case the other side must undertake to begin negotiations within 3 months from the date of the application, with the aim of modifying these arrangements.

C. Article VI of the draft treaty cannot be interpreted to contradict the Camp David framework for a comprehensive settlement.

D. Neither will the commitment under the peace treaty take priority or precedence over the other commitments of the parties nor vice versa. The matter will be left to the general principles of the law.

3. On the question of oil: We refused to give any guarantee or commitment to provide Israel with any quantity of oil or to give it any preferential treatment. All there is to it is that the door will be open for Israel to join the international bids to buy the quantities offered by Egypt, just like any other side and at international prices.

4. On the exchange of ambassadors: This matter will be handled within the context of the normalization of relations, provided it does not take place less than 1 month after the completion of the withdrawal from the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, which is a date close to the date of the elections and the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

It is worth noting that I have received a categorical commitment from the U.S. President to proceed with intensive efforts to solve the Palestine problem in accordance with the pledge which President Carter took upon himself. If Israel approves all these submitted documents then the door will be open for agreement and for concentration on negotiations on autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, paving the way for a final settlement to be judged without comment. [as received]

Finally, I implore God Almighty to grant you success to his satisfaction.

[Signed] Your brother, Anwar as-Sadat, Cairo, 16 Rabi' al-Awwal 1399, 15 Mar 1979.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION ON TREATY TO BEGIN 31 MARCH

NC240932 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports today that the draft peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, which will be signed in Washington on Monday, will be submitted to the People's Assembly at one of its sessions, which will begin on 31 March. The paper adds that immediately after his return from Washington after signing the treaty, President as-Sadat will deliver an important statement to the people's representatives at the assembly explaining the details of the treaty and the annexed documents.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM points out that the assembly speaker, Dr Sufi abu Talib, has stated that after the president's speech, the question will be referred to either a joint meeting of the foreign, Arab and national security affairs committees or to a special committee of the assembly for a debate. A general discussion will then follow at the assembly before the treaty is ratified.

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT CAIRO 2 APRIL

NC260156 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0130 GMT 26 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Washington, 25 March--President as-Sadat has stated that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will visit Cairo on Monday, 2 April. President as-Sadat said that this visit is in response to the visit he made to Jerusalem in November 1977.

President as-Sadat made this statement after his meeting with Menahem Begin tonight, which lasted 105 minutes and was held at President as-Sadat's residence at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington. In his statement, President as-Sadat said that tomorrow, Monday, the three documents of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty would be signed in English, Arabic and Hebrew, and that the signing would take place in Washington.

After the meeting, it was announced that President as-Sadat and Begin discussed the outstanding issues, and that Begin will reply to President as-Sadat in 1 hour's time.

OCTOBER MAGAZINE: EGYPT TO WITHDRAW FROM ARAB LEAGUE

NC250650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 25 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--The magazine OCTOBER says today that Egypt will soon freeze its membership and activity in the Arab League and all its affiliated agencies, and will then withdraw.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES YOUTH CONFERENCE ON 24 MARCH

NC242025 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that the attainment of peace is a prelude to the basic aim of bringing happiness to mankind and achieving economic and social development. In an address delivered today to the world youth conference on food and development, which is being held in the hall of the Central Committee, President as-Sadat explained the role of the youth of the world in achieving development. He stressed the importance of the world youth conference--which was organized by the Youth International Secretariat--of the family and development in Egypt in cooperation with specialized international organizations. In his address, the president stressed the importance of the conference, which aims at handling the problems of food and deprivation in all countries of the world.

President as-Sadat urged world governments to channel their political will toward making serious decisions aimed at increasing food production and giving priority to national development. In his address to the world youth conference on food and development, President as-Sadat highlighted the role of youth in changing the face of the countryside throughout the world, and in driving the wheel of real economic and social change in the countryside. President as-Sadat called on the governments of world states to give youth the chance to establish projects in which they can use their energy and resources.

Presidential assistant Sayyid Mar'i delivered the address on the president's behalf.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATEMENT ON PEACE TREATY

NC252319 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] The General Secretariat of the National Democratic Party [NDP] issued a statement following its meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Vice President Husni Mubarak. The statement says that on the glorious historical occasion of the signing of the peace treaty and the building of a new epoch of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the NDP leadership held a meeting and assessed the enormous gains and achievements that have been realized by the treaty, which is the fruit of the glorious October War and the crowning achievement of the historic peace initiative.

The NDP leadership appeals to the democratic background of the Egyptian people and affirms that:

The treaty has achieved the liberation of all of Sinai, as well as Egypt's complete sovereignty over its territories and territorial waters and the restoration of its natural resources, foremost of which is oil. The treaty will save Egypt the exhorbitant expenditures and human sacrifices it has borne during the past 33 years, and enable it to devote its efforts to economic and social development projects and to improve the people's standard of living.

The treaty is an integral part of the comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. It affirms the linkage between the liberation of the Sinai and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people, and the start of the establishment of a comprehensive self-rule, which will be developed into an internationally recognized Palestinian state.

The U.S. President has also affirmed to the Egyptian People's Assembly his pledge to be a complete partner in the negotiations with representatives from Jordan, Syria [as heard] and Palestine in order to complete the overall settlement and restore Palestinian national rights.

President as-Sadat has insisted that Jerusalem remain an Arab city, that it is an integral part of the West Bank, and that its liberation is as imperative as the liberation of the West Bank territories. The treaty also stipulates Israeli military withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza immediately upon the establishment of Palestinian self-rule, and self-determination after the transitional period.

The statement adds that the Egyptian people appreciate the role played by the United States and President Jimmy Carter as a complete partner in the peace negotiations. The Egyptian people hope that this will be a prelude to a new period in which bilateral cooperation will be stepped up for the mutual benefit of both countries and for the benefit and progress of the region and international peace.

In this historical period, the NDP leadership urges the Arab countries concerned to review their positions and take part in the construction of a just and comprehensive peace in the region--a peace to which the Arab people aspire. The party leadership also appeals to the Egyptian people to shoulder the responsibility of safeguarding and developing these enormous achievements. The party leadership affirms that the Egyptian people are fully aware of any foreign intrigues and that they will maintain their solid unity.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN ISSUE, GROMYKO DAMASCUS VISIT

NC250750 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] An article in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Palestinians are called upon to advance one step forward to meet the U.S. leadership halfway. The paper affirms that the Palestinian people know the true role which President Carter played in the process of achieving the peace agreement. This agreement insures a kind of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. Carter has affirmed more than once the right of the Palestinians to have a voice in deciding their future. The paper adds: Some Palestinians may consider that the U.S. position does not give them everything they want. But this position insures a minimum which had not been available for the Palestinian people before. By participating in the negotiations 1 month after the treaty signing, the Palestinians can secure more gains and convince the U.S. leadership of the justice of their demands.

Under the headline "The Soviets Flex Their Claws," the newspaper AL-AKHBAR affirms that the whole world is looking to the historic moment of the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, with hope that this treaty will be a guarantee for security and stability and the beginning of a full comprehensive peace not only for the Middle East, but also for all nations. The paper adds: However, it is only the Soviets who do not want peace to be established and this benefit to be achieved. They viciously rose up to resist peace and vent their anger at Egypt because it called for this peace. This is because the Soviets saw in peace a move to remove them and frustrate their ambitions and designs. They seek gains at the expense of others.

The signing of the peace treaty has become an inevitable, historic act. Only a few hours remain until it is accomplished. The Soviets could not wait; they could no longer subdue their anger. Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko suddenly arrived in Damascus yesterday to lead the rejection campaign and to flex the claws which the Soviets have created against Egypt because of the peace treaty.

The paper notes that this is a known and exposed mission. The Soviet minister's sudden visit to Damascus is designed to lead the rejection group and flex the claws in an action against Egypt at the time of the signing of the peace treaty. It is known that this action was arranged and planned before. It resulted in what they called the Baghdad summit and the agreement to impose economic and political sanctions against Egypt, transfer the Arab League headquarters from Egypt, and isolate Egypt from the Arab world, as they claimed. The paper adds: However, the Soviets found out that they cannot accomplish this. It has become clear that the states which attended the Baghdad summit are not under their control. This was the mission for which Gromyko came to Damascus so his presence would enhance the threats and warning. However, it is a difficult mission and Gromyko will fail in it. The Soviets will find out that their agents are insignificant and have no value even among their own peoples.

AL-BAKR COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT, UNION WITH SYRIA

JN251806 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has said that the head of the Egyptian regime, Anwar as-Sadat, has sunk very low and has proved himself to be unimaginative and immature by selling his country to imperialism and Zionism.

In a speech he delivered during (?his meeting) with a delegation of Arab expatriates in Baghdad today, which was attended by Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, President al-Bakr said: We must not remain prisoners of the word sorrow. The Arab nation, its sons and all those who have true Arab pride and chivalry flowing in their veins, must act to combat the situation so that others will not be encouraged to follow As-Sadat's example.

In his speech, President al-Bakr referred to the Charter for Joint National Action, and said: Our meetings with our brothers in Syria are now laying the foundation for a single constitutional state and a single party. We hope that through the help of Almighty God and of sincere people in the two countries, we will be able to achieve this good deed, which will serve the future of the Arab nation.

SADDAM HUSAYN SPEAKS ON BAGHDAD RESOLUTIONS, SYRIAN UNITY

JN232101 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, has stressed that the line that separates those who stand with As-Sadat and those against him is commitment or noncommitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions. He said that we must consider any Arab ruler who does not commit himself to these resolutions to be a traitor, because noncommitment to these resolutions only means treason. Saddam Husayn said that he will praise whoever applies the majority of the ninth summit resolutions.

Speaking yesterday to the scientific seminar organized by the Higher Council of Doctors' Associations from the fraternal countries of Syria and Iraq, Saddam Husayn stated that we have the necessary abilities to overthrow those rulers who sent their ambassadors to the Baghdad summit as spies so as to report on what took place there. He said: We know quite well that those rulers' hearts, minds and consciences were with As-Sadat and not with the conference and its resolutions. He further said: Although we were aware of the intentions of those rulers who sent ambassadors to represent them at the conference of the kings and presidents, we wanted to reach the minimum agreement needed to unify the Arab will to confront the psychologically and practically difficult ordeal that was facing the Arab nation when As-Sadat signed the general framework of the Camp David agreements.

Saddam Husayn said that the Americans want to bring the Arab masses, and not the Arab rulers, to their knees. They want to do psychological and mental harm to the Arab masses.

Saddam Husayn pointed out that we will not use any means against Egypt's ruler other than inciting the Arab people in Egypt against this ruler, until he is overthrown. Providing Arab support to enable the Egyptian people to overthrow their ruler is the only sound path to save Egypt from its ordeal.

Saddam Husayn said that we want unity between Iraq and Syria so as to circumvent the plot and stop the tempest around us. We want unity to insure a new struggling formula that will attract the attention of the entire Arab nation, so as to remove the Arab nation from this difficult situation. He said that we want unity capable of upholding the principles we have declared in Iraq and Syria.

Saddam Husayn questioned the importance of the development that is taking place unilaterally in Syria and Iraq at a time when the enemy air force can strike at both countries. He stressed that through the unity of the two countries under a unified party, we can insure a present developing toward the future. We can also insure our hope and that of our children and future generations, and we can insure the unity and sovereignty of the Arab land, regain those parts that have been occupied and insure unified development.

Reviewing democracy in the unified state, Saddam Husayn said this is the democracy of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which means respect for the people's will as expressed through free and direct elections of representatives of the leaderships of the two countries to executive councils, and through elections of representatives of one leadership and of the central representative councils. He pointed out that the socialism of the state of unity is not against individual activity, but will safeguard creativity and pave the way for action and progress.

Saddam Husayn stressed that had it not been for the economic, political and military resources of Syria and Iraq in confronting the enemy, the plot would have achieved all of its aims and kept things as they were in Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

FOREIGN MINISTER APPEALS TO HALT PEACE TREATY SIGNING

JN231742 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Iraq has called on the international community to make every possible effort to keep the Egyptian regime from signing the capitulatory treaty with the Zionist entity because this signing will create grave dangers that will menace security and peace in the Arab area and the world.

In cables to the UN secretary general, the Security Council chairman, the UN General Assembly president, the OAU secretary general, the Islamic Congress secretary general and the secretary general of the American countries organization, Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi stressed that the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt's ruler and the Zionist entity constitutes a threat to security and peace in the area and exposes it to dangers of armed confrontation.

Dr Hammadi pointed out that this unilateral treaty and its method and content actually run counter to the will of the Arab countries whose territory is occupied by the Zionist entity. He said this treaty is also against the will of the Palestinian people who are the party directly concerned with the issue. This treaty opposes the Arab countries' will as expressed at the Baghdad summit conference which rejected the Camp David agreements in view of their contradiction of the national pan-Arab interests and of the resolutions of the United Nations and many other international organizations.

Dr Hammadi expressed his confidence that the leaders of these organizations will make efforts to keep the world community from being exposed to the grave consequences that will result from this unilateral action.

AL-BAKR SPEECH AT AMERICAN-ARAB FEDERATION HITS AS-SADAT

JN240759 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 March--Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, opened this evening the Baghdad meeting of the Federation of American-Arab Societies on behalf of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Dr ar-Razzaz delivered President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's speech, in which he said that Egypt's ruler, Anwar as-Sadat, has chosen to be on the side of the enemies of the Arab nation and sign an agreement offering a dear part of the homeland--which is the nation's property, not his--so as to perpetuate the influence of U.S. imperialism and destroy every progressive liberation and pan-Arab movement aimed at building a new nation and new man.

President al-Bakr further said that the Arab nation has announced its determination to continue its confrontation of the enemy, to continue its isolation of the ruler who violates the will of the nation, and to block the path of the conspiracy. He added that convening the Arab summit conference in Baghdad was the beginning of upsetting the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy.

President al-Bakr said: Imperialism has divided the Arab homeland and planted in its middle a cancer represented in the Zionist entity. It has supplied this entity with all sorts of political, economic and military support to enable it to act as an advanced basis in order to achieve the imperialist aims of keeping the Arab nation weak and divided, and spreading imperialist influence in this nation, as well as exploiting its wealth.

AL-JAMALI MEETS BRAZILIAN, MEXICAN, VENEZUELAN ENVOYS

JN241145 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 24 March--Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali summoned the Brazilian, Mexican and Venezuelan ambassadors accredited in Baghdad here today. He explained to the ambassadors the gravity of the situation in the Arab region as a result of As-Sadat's irresponsible intention of signing the capitulatory treaty with the Zionist group.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary expressed Iraq's confidence that Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela will not support the signing of such a treaty in view of its grave outcome, not only for the Palestinian people and the Arab countries but for the entire region as well.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION ARRIVES

JN260750 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--A Syrian Foreign Ministry delegation led by Haytham al-Kilani, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, arrived here last evening on a visit to Iraq lasting several days. In a statement to INA, Al-Kilani stated that the delegation's mission is to hold talks aimed at preparing for the Arab foreign and economic ministers conference, and to prepare a joint Syrian-Iraqi working paper to be submitted to the two conferences.

KING HUSAYN TO VISIT SYRIA, IRAQ BEGINNING 26 MARCH

JN251616 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has announced that His Majesty King Husayn will begin a visit to both the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq tomorrow, Monday. During the 2-day visit, his majesty and the official delegation accompanying him will hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials, and with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and senior Iraqi officials, on developments and events in the Middle East.

The source added that the visit by His Majesty King Husayn to the two fraternal countries comes within the framework of joint Arab efforts to mobilize Arab potentials, strengthen the situation, and organize joint action to serve national goals and the Arab future.

KING HUSAYN WELCOMES SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

JN241903 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn made a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY today. He expressed his satisfaction with the latest UN Security Council resolution on the Israeli settlements in the occupied territory, particularly in the Arab city of Jerusalem and the surrounding area. This resolution condemns the Israeli policy of annexing and Judaizing Arab land, and of exerting pressure on people to prompt them to evacuate their land and homeland. The resolution also condemns the major changes in the character of the occupied land.

His majesty welcomed the Security Council's declaration that Israel must apply the text of the fourth Geneva conference resolution of 1949 until the occupation forces withdraw from the occupied land.

In his statement, His Majesty King Husayn said: We in Jordan will offer every assistance to the Security Council committee in its investigation of the situation in the occupied land. This committee has been entrusted with the task of submitting a report on this issue to the Security Council.

Concluding his statement, his majesty voiced the hope that the UN Security Council will be able to find a way to send this committee to the occupied land so it can accomplish its mission.

Foreign Ministry Official on Resolution

JN231616 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] In reply to a question by a JNA correspondent on the UN Security Council resolution dealing with Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that this resolution represents a new condemnation by the Security Council and the international community of Israel's policies of expansion and establishing settlements. This is clear from the text of the resolution adopted by the Security Council, and from the detailed statements by the world countries' representatives who participated enthusiastically in discussions on the topic. They denounced Israel's aggressive policy and called for an immediate halt to this policy.

Ibrahim added that Israel's opposition to the resolution, as well as its refusal to receive members of the committee formed by the UN Security Council to investigate the situation in the occupied territories and Jersualem, indicate Israel's determination to continue its aggressive practices, to legalize its occupation of the Arab territories and to hamper the process of a comprehensive settlement in the area.

Ibrahim expressed the Jordanian Government's thanks to all the countries which voted in favor of the resolution, and to all the countries which participated in the debates and supported the Jordanian stand at the UN Security Council.

Ibrahim expressed deep regret over the position adopted by some UN Security Council members, for example the United States, the United Kingdom, and Norway which abstained from voting in favor of this just resolution despite the fact that the resolution conforms with the UN Charter and the previous UN Security Council resolutions on this subject. Ibrahim stressed that Jordan will closely follow the implementation of the resolution and the mission of the committee formed by the UN Security Council, and will again raise the issue during the UN Security Council meeting on the subject in July.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT CALLS FOR 1-HOUR STRIKE ON 26 MARCH

JN251905 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Jordanian Government statement issued on 25 March]

[Text] As an expression of the Arab rejection of the separate peace treaty which will be signed by President as-Sadat; in tribute to the martyrs of our nation who fell in the defense of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem; and in fulfillment of the pledge we made to our kinfolk in the occupied territories that we will support them and protect them from the plots, and that we will work for their liberation from the Zionist occupation, the Jordanian Government announces that all work in all official and private departments and organizations will stop for 1 hour from 1100 to 1200 tomorrow, Monday.

The Jordanian Government affirms the importance of national cohesion in facing the plots against the Arab nation and its primary cause. Therefore, the government realizes that closing ranks at home and unifying Arab stands in the face of this plot and of the results which will arise from it are the only weapon which will foil the enemy designs.

On this occasion, the government pays tribute to the Egyptian martyrs who fell for the sake of the Arab nation and its dignity. The government is certain that these depressing clouds over Egypt will inevitably clear away, through the awareness of the Egyptian people, the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories, and the cohesion, awareness and alertness of our citizens in the face of the plots and designs which are aimed at removing the situation from its right path and which are in the service of the invaders and plotters.

On this occasion, the government sends greetings and pledges of loyalty to the leader of our march, who is the heir of the leader of the Arab revolt, Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali. The latter had the determination and strength which foiled the first link in the international Zionist conspiracy.

The government pledges that it will walk firmly on the road which he and his brothers, the sincere Arab leaders, have paved so as to foil the plot of capitulation and build the Arabs' intrinsic strength. The government sincerely prays to God to help those who are following mirages and those who are deceived by false light to regain their senses. The government calls on all sectors of our people to be alert so as to foil all attempts aimed at deviation and all calls for disintegration. The government asks the people and all Arab peoples to be steadfast, alert and patient, and to work for further production so as to augment our strength and support our steadfastness.

MINISTER OF STATE LEAVES FOR MOGADISCIO

JN231643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman this afternoon for Mogadiscio at the head of a delegation to attend the Arab League Council meeting due to begin in the Somali capital tomorrow, Saturday. Hasan Ibrahim stated that he will meet today with His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, for talks on the current Arab situation. He will also exchange views with him on issues on the agenda of the Arab League meetings in the Somali capital, and will discuss the Baghdad summit resolutions which will be carried out after the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

ROYAL COURT ANNOUNCES DEATH OF SHARIF NASIR

JN231910 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Royal Court announcement]

[Excerpt] With utmost sorrow and grief the Royal Hashemite Court mourns the death of His Excellency Ash-Sharif Nasir ibn Jamil [uncle of King Husayn] who died at 1600 today, 23 March 1979, following a sudden heart attack.

Iraqi Condolences

JN251551 Amman JNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 25 March--Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, arrived here today to offer condolences to King Husayn on behalf of Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr on the death of Nasir ibn Jamil. He was received by the minister of court and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Bahraini Condolences

JN251552 Amman JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 25 March--Shaykh Rashid ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, son of the amir of the State of Bahrain, arrived in Amman today to offer condolences to King Husayn on behalf of the amir of Bahrain on the death of Nasir ibn Jamil. He was received at the airport by the chief chamberlain, Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and the Bahraini ambassador in Amman. The Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain also arrived on the same aircraft.

BA'TH PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT ON MIDEAST ACCORD

JN242118 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of statement issued by Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Damascus--date not given]

[Text] Masses of our Arab nation: The ruler of Egypt has eliminated all doubts when he announced that he is going ahead on the path of humiliation and capitulation until the end. In a few days, he will sign the separate peace deal with the Zionist enemy. While this represents no surprise to the free struggling Arabs despite all the theatrics which characterize the negotiations in the final phase, the signing of the separate peace treaty places our entire Arab nation at a decisive crossroads, threatens its very existence with the most menacing dangers, and requires a sharp awareness of the new circumstances and new methods needed to deal with the rupture resulting from the ruler of Egypt's moving to the trench of the enemies. This awareness is also needed to defend the interests and future of the Arab nation.

The national command and regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party recently held a series of meetings to study the situation. Our party, which believes that the masses' awareness is the sharpest weapon in confronting the dangers and the plots, finds itself dutybound to place the following facts before our Arab people:

1. The forthcoming treaty, regardless of how hard the ruler of Egypt tries to falsify facts and portray it as a great victory, is purely a document of unconditional capitulation to the Zionist enemy. It entrenches the fait accompli, consolidates the occupation, and undermines the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The treaty is a blatant denial of the struggle of our nation and the sacrifices of our people, and constitutes a deal in which the ruler of Egypt sold out the blood of the October war martyrs and in which he accepted terms which the Zionist enemy never dreamed of even in the aftermath of the 1967 catastrophe. Begin has again told the ruler of Egypt "no" to the borders of 1967, "no" to the Palestinian state, and "no" to the return of Jerusalem. Begin has said that there will be autonomy for the population, but not for the land. Begin thus confirms that the treaty represents full acceptance of the legitimacy of the Zionist usurpation.

This treaty does not create peace, but makes war and carries the dangers of new aggressive wars. A just and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without full withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

2. The signing of the separate peace treaty between the ruler of Egypt and the Zionist enemy is the most serious setback in the contemporary history of the Arab nation because Zionist and imperialist designs seek to make the treaty a springboard for rearranging conditions in the area in such a way that will achieve full control for the Zionist and imperialist interests of the future of the Arab homeland. This will be done by breaking the wall of rejection of the Zionist challenge, implanting the spirit of despair in the Arabs and preparing them psychologically to accept the usurpation of Arab lands and the obliteration and finally the liquidation of the Palestine issue. This will also be done by using Egypt, which is wide open to the Zionist enemy, as an outlet and springboard for Zionist economic and cultural infiltration of the entire Arab homeland and by taking Egypt, with it enormous manpower and material and moral weight, out of the arena of confrontation and transferring it to the ranks of the alliance with the Arab nation's enemies.

Egypt will be used in this Zionist-Egyptian-U.S. alliance to play the role of policeman to frustrate every Arab ambition to become free from the hegemony of imperialism and Zionism. Egypt will be used as an instrument to protect the interests of imperialism and Zionism not just in the Arab homeland, but throughout Africa as well.

3. Zionism and imperialism, which realize that the treaty of humiliation and capitulation will not be accepted easily and that Arab solidarity is an effective weapon in confronting the treaty and this ferocious Zionist-imperialist onslaught, will certainly do their best to break up this solidarity. The departure of the ruler of Egypt from the will of the Arab nation represents a major step along this path. Furthermore, Zionism and imperialism will try to bring the Arab situation to a head in more than one place and cause local wars among the Arabs to transform the Arab-Zionist dispute into a dispute among Arabs with the aim of providing the proper atmosphere for weakening the Arab capability to counter the treaty and foil its consequences. This has the goal of enhancing the Zionist enemy's capabilities and strength to commit aggression and to expand and annex new land.

4. The new Egyptian-Zionist-U.S. alliance will work in every possible way to tear up the unity of the Palestinian Arab ranks inside and outside the occupied territories and to weaken the support given by the Palestinian masses to the PLO. This alliance will attempt to turn autonomy and the related negotiations into a means to effect the required disunity among the Palestinians, destroy the efforts which must be exerted to strengthen and escalate the resistnace against the Zionist occupation inside the occupied territories, and promote the autonomy proposal. This proposal is a Zionist demand aimed at reorganizing the enemy's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and annexing them forever in such a way that will not endanger the Zionist-racist-Jewish character of the Zionist state. This will also be done in such a way that will usurp the rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland of Palestine in exchange for a sort of local administration within the Zionist state.

Arab masses throughout the great Arab homeland, from the very beginning, our party and the masses of our nation have realized the nature of the Zionist-colonialist-settler movement, its threat to the pan-Arab cause, and its designs against the Arab land and people. These designs can be realized by uprooting the Palestinian people from their homeland--the land of their fathers and forefathers--and the setting up of an artifical racist-expansionist entity which will continue to occupy Arab territories, separate the Arab east from the Arab west, stand as a physical barrier in the way of Arab unity and prevent the Arab nation's moves to remove disunity, tutelage and backwardness. Our party--the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--has believed from the very beginning that the Palestinian cause is a pan-Arab cause which concerns the Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the gulf. No Arab ruler has the right to act unilaterally regarding this cause. The Arab-Zionist struggle is a historic and cultural struggle. It is a fateful and pan-Arab struggle. This struggle must eventually be decided in favor of one of the two sides.

Thus, this pan-Arab and historic struggle will be prolonged and will not end with setbacks, but will continue until the inevitable result dictated by history is reached--the destruction of the racist and sectarian Zionist theory and its materialist aggressive pillars. The signing of the treaty of humiliation and capitulation by the Egyptian ruler and his challenge to the dignity of our brave people in Egypt by raising the enemy flag over Cairo while the Arab territories are still occupied, is a frustrated move.

It is contrary to history and to the inevitable results of struggle. This signing will not be adhered to by the Egyptian people and will not commit the Arab nation and the Arab people of Palestine to anything.

Struggling Arab masses everywhere, the fighters will not just be satisfied with the belief in the inevitability of history and in the victory of right over wrong. They will not be satisfied until they themselves make history. Therefore, the Ba'th Party calls on the struggling Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland and on Arab governments and officials:

1. To denounce the treaty of capitulation and separate peace between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity with all its articles and supplements, strongly reject all its results and effects whether political or economic, and call for destroying this treaty and foiling its results by every possible means;

2. To hold fast to the policy of Arab solidarity in confronting the Zionist aggression, call for pooling more Arab resources for the confrontation and reject middle of the road stands on the issue of the alliance with Zionism. This is because the threat is directed against everyone and there is no middle road stand between the stand of humiliation and agentry for the enemy and that of commitment to the Arab cause. There is no room for neutrality concerning the Zionist enemy and its allies;

3. To block the way for any attempt aimed at creating side battles and escalating Arab disputes. This must be done to preserve the unity of confrontation and to escalate the steadfastness in the face of the plot;

4. To be completely committed to the resolutions of the Arab summits concerning the unity of the cause, to the rejection of all attempts to divide this cause or harm it, and to complete adherence to the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem;

5. To express complete commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad and the measures included in them regarding confrontation of the schemes of capitulation and regarding the imposition of sanctions against As-Sadat's regime in view of its relinquishment of pan-Arab rights and its exposing the future of the Arab nation to dangers;

6. To confirm the effectiveness of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and to develop its methods of action and capability for confrontation as well as to expand these methods so as to include the greatest possible Arab force;

7. To complete the steps of coordination and unification between Syria and Iraq in implementation of the Joint National Action Charter and the Damascus political declaration so as to achieve unity between the two fraternal Arab countries. This unity represents the nucleus for comprehensive Arab unity and an effective pan-Arab reply to the policy of submission and capitulation;

8. To search for the appropriate atmosphere to achieve Palestinian national unity and consolidate cohesion among all revolution groups as well as to escalate their struggle against the Zionist enemy so as to regain the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights;

9. To support the steadfastness of our Arab masses in the occupied Arab territories with every possible means as well as the escalation of their splendid heroic struggle against occupation, suppression and terrorism, and the consolidation of their cohesion and unity in the face of the Zionist enemy;

10. To offer every possible support to our Arab people in Egypt and their national forces, which are struggling to topple As-Sadat's regime, out of our belief in the revolutionary potentials of this great part of our Arab nation and out of confidence in Egypt's heroic Arab army, which will certainly not forget the blood its martyrs shed for the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular; and

11. To move quickly toward our friends in the world, particularly the socialist countries, the nonalined states, the Islamic countries, the African unity states and the various forces of national liberation so as to achieve wide-scale world solidarity with the Arab cause with the aim of repulsing the aggression and nullifying the gains and privileges which will be achieved by the capitulation treaty in the interests of Zionism and imperialism.

Masses of our Arab nation, while we are confident that the treaty of capitulation and the unilateral peace will inevitably have the same destiny as all colonialist and imperialist agreements hostile to the interests of the peoples, because they are against the logic of history, we affirm that we should not feel secure about this historic inevitability and should create a short-term strategy or a working program of comprehensive struggle against this treasonous capitulationist trend.

The current pan-Arab setback requires that we all be fully aware of the nature of the dangers engulfing our nation. We must shoulder the responsibility of confronting the schemes of capitulation and toppling them forever. Meanwhile, the setback requires that we tighten the domestic structure, continue strengthening our defensive ability and consolidate our national economy.

Our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, while defining these requirements, pledges the masses of the Arab nation that it will continue its struggle and will shoulder its responsibilities no matter how heavy they might be. It does so out of a commitment to the cause of Palestine and the Arab nation. It is confident that our nation will be able to confront the difficult circumstances and all the challenges as it has always done throughout its long history of struggle.

Shame and disgrace to those signing the bond of humiliation and capitulation; glory and crowns of victory to the Arab nation's martyrs; greetings to all free Arabs who are struggling to achieve our pan-Arab goals of unity, freedom and socialism; immortality to our mission.

Damascus, 24 March 1979.

[Signed] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD SENDS MESSAGES TO WORLD LEADERS

JN251358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent messages to a number of world leaders. In his messages, Al-Asad explained the dangers of signing a capitulatory treaty between Egypt's ruler and the Zionist entity. In messages to PRC leader Hua Guofeng, Japanese Emperor Hirohito, Indian President Neelam Sanjivi Reddy, Cuban President Fidel Castro, Mexican President Jose Lopes Portillo, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, Senegalese President Leopold Senghor, Nigerian President Obasanjo, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, President al-Asad explained the gravity of the situation in the Middle East which the Egyptian-Israeli treaty will cause. He also noted the implications of this situation for world peace.

President al-Asad explained the Arab stand toward this treaty. This stand is manifest in the Baghdad summit resolutions and the Arab nation's stand against As-Sadat's steps. As-Sadat's steps will inevitably further aggravate the volatile situation. In his messages, President al-Asad warned against the dangers involved in the Egyptian-Israeli treaty because it deviates from the UN resolutions and the resolutions of the nonalined countries as well as from the will of the Arab nation. President al-Asad stressed that the Arab-Zionist conflict will continue as long as the elements of this conflict still exist. The Israeli occupation of Arab land and the displacement of the Palestinian people are the basis of this conflict. The Israeli-Egyptian treaty ignores these two factors.

President al-Asad said that Syria believes that a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict can only be achieved through complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to determine their future and to establish their own independent state on the soil of their homeland. Only in this way can the peace to which we and all peace, freedom and justice-loving peoples aspire be achieved. President al-Asad sent similar messages yesterday to Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

USSR FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO ARRIVES 24 MAR

JN241250 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--Andrey Gromyko, Soviet minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus at 1300 today at the head of an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Syria. He was received at the airport by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; 'Adnan (?Nashshabah), director of the East Europe Department at the Ministry; the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, members of the Soviet community and a number of the ambassadors of the socialist countries to Syria. Jamil Shayya said that this visit is a clear indication of continued consultations and discussions between Syria and the Soviet Union on the new developments. He said that the visit demonstrates the level of cooperative relations between the two friendly countries of Syria and the Soviet Union. He wished the guest minister a happy stay in Damascus.

In a statement to reporters, Gromyko said: We arrived in Damascus to consult with our friends in Syria about issues on which we believe consultations are necessary. He said: Both we and the whole world realize that there are issues. It is no great secret that among the current issues is the present situation in the Middle East. Gromyko stressed: We arrived here because we are friends of Syria and all the Arabs. When the Soviet Union and the Soviet leaders say this, we mean what we say. This particular aspect demonstrates the Soviet leadership's views to the officials here.

In conclusion, Gromyko said: We hope to hold talks here in Damascus as usual, in an atmosphere of friendship and frank spirit. He said: I take this opportunity to convey to President Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian Government and the friendly people, regards from the Soviet leadership and from Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU General Secretary.

Soviet Reportage on Visit

For Soviet reportage on the visit by Gromyko, USSR foreign minister, to Syria, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 26 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Al-Asad, Gromyko Meeting

JN241939 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Andrey Gromyko, Soviet minister of foreign affairs, in the presidential palace at 1600 today.

The meeting was attended by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Georgiy Markovich Korniyenko, first deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Grenivsky), chief of the Middle Eastern Countries Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Yuriy Nikolayevich Chernyakov, Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

Dinner Speeches

JN250613 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Last night, Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, gave a dinner in honor of Andrey Gromyko, Soviet foreign affairs minister. The meeting was attended by Syrian ministers, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Deputy Prime Minister Jamil Shayya made a speech in which he welcomed Gromyko's visit which comes during very difficult circumstances. He said that the Middle East area is experiencing new events which will seriously reflect on the Arab area as well as on international relations.

Shayya said: This historic phase is characterized as the beginning of a new era where U.S. imperialism, together with As-Sadat's help, is trying to implement its plans in order to secure its interests and those of Israel. This plan will cause heavy losses to the Arabs and all peace-loving countries.

Shayya added: What is going on these days is not a genuine peace. It is a plan which will definitely not achieve genuine peace in the area. What is going on is a U.S.-Israeli plot aimed at forcing the Arabs to yield and accept this plotting. Shayya said: This solution which As-Sadat embarked on is a unilateral and conspiratorial settlement aimed against Arab interests. This settlement will separate Egypt from the Arab fold and will completely isolate Egypt from the rest of the Arab homeland. We in the Syrian Arab Republic have adopted a clear and specific policy since the beginning of the conspiratorial course in this area. This policy is derived from the pan-Arab tasks and is based on our absolute belief in the necessity to establish a just peace in this area.

We have frequently reiterated and outlined our understanding of a just peace. We have stressed that these principles form the minimum acceptable to the Arabs in order to reach a just peace in the area. Syria has made it clear that there will be no peace unless all the occupied Arab territories are regained. We have also emphasized that there will be no peace until the Palestinian Arabs gain all their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and establishing their independent state in their homeland.

Shayya further stressed that what the United States, As-Sadat and Israel depict as a triumph in signing the Camp David accords and the forthcoming treaty is in fact an illusion that will eventually be exposed and defeated. Our Arab people, by uniting their stand, their belief in their legitimate rights and their determination to repulse the capitulatory course, will destroy this conspiratorial plan regardless of all U.S. efforts to implement it.

Shayya then reviewed As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories and his participation in the conspiratorial plan. Shayya said: Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has actively participated in establishing and consolidating the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Then followed the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and the convocation of the Arab summit in Baghdad and its historic resolutions. These resolutions have proved that the Arabs are capable of overcoming the ordeal and uniting to fact this conspiratorial course aimed at the Arab nation. Shayya concluded by expressing the gratitude of the Syrian Arab Republic and its appreciation for the Soviet stand supporting the just cause of our people and their liberation struggle. He stressed our great concern to further deepen and consolidate the friendship and cooperation ties between our countries and peoples.

Andrey Gromyko, the Soviet foreign minister, then replied by stressing his country's stand toward the Middle East issue. This stand calls for a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and securing the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and establishing their own state on their homeland. Gromyko denounced the treacherous treaty between Egypt and Israel. He said: We in the Soviet Union firmly denounce this unilateral deal and treaty between the Egyptian regime and Israel. Gromyko added: We believe that this deal only serves the interests of the aggressor and the United States. He said: The United States is not taking a balanced stand regarding the Middle East issue. The United States does not take into consideration the interests of the Arabs and the interests of a just peace in the Middle East. The U.S. stand is based on its own interests which completely contradict a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Gromyko described As-Sadat's scheme as treacherous. He said: I cannot find any other term to describe this scheme. It absolutely contradicts the principles of history to see the ruler of an Arab country betraying the interests of his people and the interests of the Arab nation and its common cause. Concluding, Gromyko highlighted the relations between the two countries and stressed that the just struggle of the Arab people, who are defending their just rights, will continue to receive the full support of the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people.

Gromyko-'Arafat Meeting

JN252148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, met in Damascus today with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. The meeting was attended on the Soviet side by Korniyenko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, head of the department for pan-Arab relations and the official PLO spokesman. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the recent developments in the region, particularly the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat conspiratorial agreement and its effects on the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Gromyko's Departure 26 Mar

JN260924 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria. The Soviet delegation was seen off by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; 'Abd al-Karim, minister of state for foreign affairs; Foreign Ministry officials and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

BEGIN MAKES STATEMENT AFTER TALKS WITH VANCE

NC250652 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Begin says the treaty with Egypt will be signed tomorrow night on schedule. He made a brief comment to reporters after an hour and a half meeting in New York with Secretary of State Vance. Begin said: The only question is: Do we sign or don't we sign? The answer is: We sign. He would give no details of the talks, which were aimed at clearing up the last loose ends, including an agreement on when Israel is to pull out of the Sinai oilfields.

The prime minister's spokesman, Dan Patir, told reporters that the full document will be signed on Monday, including the military annex. Part of the annex is the timetable for withdrawal, which includes the pullback from the oilfields, but Patir would not say if the issue has been settled.

Still to be worked out are details of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel. However, Foreign Minister Dayan said this does not have to be completed before the treaty is signed. Dayan also took part in last night's talks between Begin and Vance.

CABINET MEETS TO FINALIZE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING 25 MAR

TA251609 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Mar 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Only nine ministers participated in the Cabinet meeting today. The meeting lasted 7 hours. In the meeting, declared as being one of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs--although the members of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs are now on their way to New York--it was decided to approve the Israeli-U.S. Memorandum of Understanding. Our correspondent Asher Fisch reports. [Begin recording]

[Fisch] The U.S.-Israeli Memorandum of Understanding was concluded a day before the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. In the course of today's 7-hour Cabinet meeting--a meeting that lasted longer than expected--two telephone conversations were held with the prime minister in Washington; in coordination with him, the ministers decided to accept the matters concluded yesterday between the prime minister and Secretary of State Vance in a meeting the two held to narrow the gaps on the issue of the Israeli-U.S. Memorandum of Understanding. The approval of the matters concluded at this meeting in fact constitute a finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding. It should be noted that the memorandum is not subject to the Cabinet's approval; it is the duty of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs to approve the memorandum when all its members meet in Washington.

The Cabinet today sat in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs although only a single minister from the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, Minister Ari'el Sharon, was present. The meeting was chaired by the acting prime minister, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. After the meeting Minister Hammer told us about the decision connected with the Memorandum of Understanding.

[Hammer] Today, while talking to the prime minister, we discussed the questions pertaining to the Memorandum of Understanding and other subjects.

However, all our decisions at the moment--so long as they were not also being concluded by the ministers now in the United States--are taken in the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

[Fisch] Minister Hammer also said that the matter of gestures requested of Israel by the United States was also raised in the Cabinet meeting and the Cabinet's position on this issue was brought to the attention of the prime minister. Didn't the fact that half of the Cabinet is abroad interfere with the issue of the Memorandum of Understanding, Minister Hammer was asked.

[Hammer] Both from the point of view of quality and quantity--it is clear that we were lacking. However, it seems to me that the form of the decision we took clearly takes this into consideration. It also seems to me that the part of the Cabinet remaining here will complement that part of Cabinet in the United States.

[Fisch] The Cabinet also adopted a series of decisions with regard to its policy in the territories in the coming days. How will the acting prime minister respond if there are settlement attempts on the part of Gush Emunim during this period?

[Hammer] I would say that I do not think there is much to be gained by this. After the signing we will start a month and more of serious discussions about the future of autonomy, the future of the settlements. I do not think there will be much to be gained in demonstrating at the moment. However, if it is decided, wherever it is decided, to set up the settlements, we will have to act according to our understanding of things at the time. However, I cannot go into details. [end recording]

Cabinet Session Ends

TA251533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem ended about half an hour ago and it was reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States has been finalized. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is at the prime minister's office and he brings us the details.

[Schiffer] Well then, the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States has been finalized. This was reported during the Cabinet meeting by the prime minister in two telephone conversations he had with acting prime minister, Minister Zevulun Hammer. It has been learned that the Memorandum of Understanding with the United States was concluded only after President Carter's personal intervention.

In the approved document it is stated, among other things, that the United States will not recognize the PLO unless this organization recognizes UN Resolutions 248 [as heard] and 338 and the State of Israel's right to exist.

The Cabinet meeting was in part held in the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. Minister Hammer agreed to say that an extensive discussion will also be held about events in Judaea and Samaria and East Jerusalem.

[Hammer--begin recording] The Cabinet dealt with this issue extensively, with the aim of keeping complete public order. I hope there will be order in the territories. [end recording]

[Schiffer] In a ministerial consultation held today it was decided to nip in the bud any possibility of mass demonstrations in the territories or of a commercial strike in the next few days. The commander of the Central Command, Maj Gen Moshe Levi, and the coordinator of activities in the territories, Gen Dani Mat, participated in part of the meeting.

The Cabinet ministers also passed on to the prime minister their positions on the subject of gestures the government was requested to make in the territories. Minister Hammer was also asked how he will react if Gush Emunim indeed goes ahead with plans to set up several settlements in the territories tomorrow.

[Hammer--begin recording] I very much hope that it will be understood that there is not much to be gained by such a challenge. However, when the matter comes up, if it comes up, we will see how we will deal with it. [end recording]

Gestures Rejected

TA260657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that in the ministerial consultation held last night in Jerusalem, some of the gestures Israel was asked to make to Egypt were rejected. Included in the rejection were the evacuation of the Bet El military government headquarters, limiting IDF movement in the territories and granting Arabs the right to political organization in the territories. The ministers brought their position to the prime minister's attention.

Our correspondent notes that other gestures were not rejected and that it was decided that if they are approved at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs in Washington, they will be accepted by the ministers in Israel. Our correspondent adds that after the delegation returns from Washington, the entire Cabinet may discuss this question.

U.S. ACCEPTS BEGIN STANCE ON OIL SUPPLY

TA252039 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The United States will undertake to provide a regular supply of oil to Israel for 15 years starting on the day Israel asks for it. This was concluded today in high-level talks conducted in Washington. Our correspondent Elisha' Spiegleman has learned that last week the Americans announced that the 15 years will begin on the day of the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. This announcement was received in Jerusalem with surprise, since the impression originally given to the negotiators was that the 15 year countdown would begin after the submission of the Israeli request. At the request of the energy minister the prime minister intervened in the discussions and informed the Americans that he would like to have the decision changed. Today it has been learned that Israel's position on this matter was accepted in Washington.

Our correspondent Avi Angel adds that on other issues connected with oil supply to Israel the negotiations in Washington are continuing at this very moment. No agreement has yet been reached regarding the date of evacuation of the oil wells in the 'Alma oil field, nor regarding the date and conditions for the supply of oil to Israel by Egypt.

REPORTAGE ON ISRAELI DELEGATION IN U.S.

Begin, As-Sadat Meeting 25 March

TA260633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will leave next Monday for an official visit to Cairo at the invitation of President as-Sadat. It will be a return visit in response to As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem; no additional signing ceremony of the peace treaty will take place. This was concluded at the meeting held early this morning between Begin and President as-Sadat. They decided that apart from the signing ceremony tonight in Washington, there will be no other signing ceremonies.

The talk was described by Begin as outstanding, but no information could be obtained as to what political issues were discussed.

Our correspondent in Washington, Shalom Qital, says that the issue of the oil fields was concluded by a decision that Israel will return them to Egypt 7 months after the peace treaty is signed. In return, Egypt will commit itself to supply oil to Israel in the same quantity Israel has thus far pumped from the oilwells. No further details are available.

Our correspondent adds that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the United States today, prior to the signing of the peace treaty.

Dayan Interview

TA252231 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2138 GMT 25 Mar 79 TA

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by Eli Nisan in Washington--live]

[Question] Mr Dayan, I understand that you in fact concluded the talks with the U.S. party on the Memorandum of Understanding. Is it possible, at this stage, to wish the people of Israel a good signing?

[Answer] There will indeed be a signing of the parties on the Memorandum of Understanding, but when you are saying a good signing you are referring to the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. The Memorandum of Understanding is not part of this, nor a condition for this either. From our point of view it is a most important component, just as the U.S. military aid is an important component. However, I would not say that had we not concluded this Memorandum of Understanding today and disagreements had been left on this issue, it would have been impossible to sign the peace treaty with Egypt.

As regards the peace treaty with Egypt, I certainly hope that after today's talk to be held between the prime minister and the Egyptian president, that the last, still outstanding differences of opinion will be settled and it will be possible indeed to wish a good signing.

[Question] Could you detail what the differences of opinion are?

[Answer] Not detail--after all, generally speaking, they are well known to the public. It is that issue consisting of the withdrawal from the area of the oil fields and the guaranteeing of the oil supply to Israel.

These two things are also connected to the question of the exchange of ambassadors. In other words, the Egyptians raised a condition to the effect that they do not want to exchange ambassadors if those interim stages of withdrawal are not implemented. Therefore, if this matter is not concluded with the agreement of both parties, the Egyptians will be able to come and say: Therefore, since this has not been concluded or since you have not acted as we have agreed between ourselves, we are not sending an Egyptian ambassador to Israel.

[Question] May resolving these questions you have just defined be used by them as a condition for the signing of the agreement, in your opinion?

[Answer] In my opinion, my personal opinion, Israel should not sign the treaty if these conditions of withdrawal, of the phases of the withdrawal and the oil issue, are not wrapped up and concluded, since, as I have said, this will also block the sending of ambassadors--and this issue of ambassadors is not only a simple issue of ambassadors but is part of, perhaps a major component, normalization. Otherwise we will then be faced with a finished treaty with the conditions of withdrawal not concluded, and the oil issue not concluded and the normalization, reflected in the issue of the exchange of ambassadors, not concluded. It is very difficult for me to see that we will be able to arrange these things as we want after the signing. However, I think we are using too many if's. In my assessment this will be solved and settled. I estimate it will be solved and settled. A short while indeed remains until the signing, but I hope it will be settled.

[Question] Mr Dayan, with your permission, I will go back to the issue of the Memorandum of Understanding. I understand that from an Israeli point of view a Memorandum of Understanding [word indistinct] to serve as a central pillar, a prop to the agreement itself. Could you note what the major points are that you have concluded in your talks here?

[Answer] I shall first try to explain the nature, the purpose or role of this Memorandum of Understanding. The question was whether the United States is ready to undertake responsibility, and if so, what kind of responsibility with respect to: A) the implementation of the agreement between us and Egypt; and B) in case it is not implemented--since Israel will make many concessions, withdraw from the territories and have its security harmed; and, if the agreement is not implemented, more difficult situations could be expected from Israel's point of view--if the United States is ready, in case the agreement or parts of it are not implemented, to help Israel to overcome the damage incurred by Israel due to the nonimplementation of the agreement. Well, to my joy, the United States has not rejected this demand, this appeal to share the responsibility.

The question then was what the degree of responsibility is, and, in addition--when we get further into details--what the United States is ready to undertake on this, that and the other issue. This is generally speaking. And, again generally speaking, the United States, under no circumstances, is prepared now to say that if so and so happens--let us say: if the Egyptians close the Tiran Straits, or if they cancel the demilitarization--then the United States will do this or that in order to either guarantee that the agreement is implemented or to help Israel face the new situation.

What it is prepared to say is that: A) It will help to see to it that the agreement is implemented, and if there are violations of the agreement it will talk with the parties in order to bring about the implementation of the agreement; and B) If it is not implemented, then to consider the steps it, and only it, can adopt, the steps--and it is not binding itself in advance to what these steps will be--called for in its eyes according to the particular circumstances.

[Question] I understand from what you say that the United States is in fact undertaking responsibility but does not tell the parties, does not tell us, Israel, what it will do in such a case.

[Answer] I think that a more correct definition will perhaps be to say that the United States sees and recognizes itself as an address [KTOVET] concerning these issues. It does not say: You cannot turn to me, you have signed an agreement with Egypt and so what do you want of me? It recognizes the fact that it is an address. However, it says that it is an address: A) In the framework of its legislature--its constitution [last word in English] its Congress and so on--and B) only it, in due course, will be able to decide what measures it is ready, on its part, to adopt. In fact, beyond this agreement, if we wanted more than what is said in it, it would have turned into a military alliance.

First, this agreement is not a military alliance, clearly not. Had we wanted to introduce into it elements of a military alliance the whole thing would have looked differently--it would then have to be brought to the Congress for a decision approved by a two-thirds majority--and Israel as well as the United States should at that time have first decided if they wanted such a joint military alliance. This is not a military alliance.

[Question] Mr Dayan, since the issue of a defense pact, of a military alliance, was raised in the course of the talks with the Americans--not now in the current talks but in the course of previous talks--could you clarify your position on this issue? Do you think Israel needs such a pact?

[Answer] This is indeed a question for a completely personal opinion. I would have viewed this favorably. It could have been good in principle for Israel, in its situation, its isolation and so on--this long series of things requiring help and support--if it could get out of this loneliness and isolation and be connected to a larger framework. The United States, in this sense, is surely a good prop. However, such a thing carries a price and before deciding one should check what the price is. I, too--when I say in advance that I am for such a thing in principle--condition this first of all on a very thorough study of what this will bind us to and what we will gain. It is possible that the commitments Israel will have to undertake in such a framework will be such that we--I--would say: It is not worth our while to do so.

[Question] You are referring to political commitments of concessions....

[Answer, interrupting] Yes, yes, especially such commitments.

[Question] In any event, this issue is not worked out, nor exhausted.

[Answer] This issue was not discussed at all. There was no such official U.S. proposal, or a formal appeal on our part either.

However, when various issues were discussed, such as this Memorandum of Understanding, when they came to the threshold of the question as to how far the United States is prepared or can stretch itself in commitments without letting them carry the official cachet of a defense pact, then this question of a defense pact arose and they said: Look, if you want more than this, let us then talk of a defense pact. The United States did not propose this nor did we ask for this.

[Question] Mr Dayan, is it possible to say, in the wake of signing this agreement.

[Answer, interrupting] It is not signed yet; it was concluded. Last night the last points were discussed and finalized by the prime minister, Secretary of State Vance and the ministers and other people present there. However, the United States should bring it, in one form or another, to the Congress and therefore--it passed through the U.S. President who endorsed it and introduced several changes in it. It passed through this level then, but it is not yet ready for signing since there is also the stage involving the Congress. I am not exactly an expert on the procedures involved in presenting it to the Congress, but it should go through this stage too.

[Question] My question is whether this version as it is, has deepened, enlarged or reinforced the degree of the U.S. commitment to Israel, in your assessment?

[Answer] First, as an initial reply--yes. However, one should spell it out a little and explain this reply. First, all sorts of previous U.S. commitments--and there are many and important ones here--the previous commitments incorporated in the framework of this agreement were approved anew except for those which were dropped due to circumstances. However, all of the significant commitments were endorsed and given validity anew. It was very important to do this.

Second, we are now faced with a new situation of a peace agreement with Egypt and the question was whether the United States, in addition to the previous commitments, will, in this framework as well, constitute a party friendly to Israel and also to Egypt--in this case, a party friendly to a peace agreement and its implementation. The answer to this is positive. Therefore, I think that whether it reinforced Israeli-U.S. relations--if it had not existed--it should have been discussed in terms of what the situation would have been if such an agreement did not exist [sentence as heard]. Then we would have kept all the friendly declarations concerning the United States--that it is responsible for seeing to it that we are responsible and so on--in addition to having the previous agreements with the United States. However, a new situation would have been created in the event of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty regarding which the United States would have been put out of the picture. This would have carried a basic significance, of course, However, now that the United States is a partner to the peace treaty, in one way or another it is possible to say that the ties between the United States and Israel have been updated not only from the point of view of the timetable but also from the point of view of political contents up to and including this peace treaty that is to be implemented--its implementation should first take 3 years and then its maintenance. [sentence as heard]

Ministers Comment on Treaty

TA260909 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel; interviews with Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich by IDF correspondents in the United States on 25 March--recorded]

[Text] Tzvi Shapira talked to Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin last night: [begin recording]

[Shapira] Deputy Prime Minister Professor Yadin, we are going to sign the peace treaty which will be signed between Israel and Egypt. Is this the peace you had wished for?

[Yadin] I think that anyone who thought that the peace, at least in the first stage, will be some kind of a dream peace, a millenium one, has been deluding himself. I think that anyone who seriously thought that peace would come could not have, in my opinion, imagined but that peace will start in stages involving many problems. I think the peace we are now signing, in the form of a peace treaty, is a good one and it will ultimately be tested by the extent to which each annex which deals with the normalization of relations will be materialized. We will have rather difficult struggles, and if we fulfill the agreement, and so do the Egyptians, and the relations are more deeply entrenched, then I believe that this peace as it is now--which is the only realistic peace--will ultimately bring about more of a European kind of peace, as we know it.

[Shapira] What would you regard as the normalization of relations?

[Yadin] First of all, and we have insisted on it until the last stage, that one of the expressions of normalization be the issue of the ambassadors. This is not merely symbolic. If there is an embassy with all its attaches, these will in fact be all the tools and instruments for the development of normal relations. I would say this: We can regard the normalization in several fields. For example, the cultural area. I would under no circumstances apply pressure specifically on this issue, that is that work should begin on this. If they submit a request--and all kinds of Israelis have already been proposing that our philharmonic orchestra should go to Cairo and that the Egyptian basketball team should come here: These are things about which we must not apply pressure. [end recording]

And here is what Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg says: [Begin recording]

[Burg] In the afternoon prayer after the Sabbath we say: Let there be peace, quiet, calm and security. I think this includes the truth as to how we should regard this matter. Peace has many stages. I would suggest that no one get drunk from the word itself. Peace, after 30 years of not maintaining peace, and with wars, must be built from the foundation. So, for me the signing is a most important act, an opening toward building peace. Time will tell whether or not this fierce desire as shown on our part will really be reciprocated, toward attaining peace, quiet, calm and security for building and creating.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have the long months brought us to the hoped-for results?

[Burg] I could have pictured much better conditions, but the other party also has to make do with this.

In politics there is always the struggle between what is desired and what is available, between what you want and what you can achieve. Under the given circumstances, I do not think it could have been possible to attain more. I think that first of all it is necessary to create an atmosphere, a psychology of peace and, to repeat, this must be a two-way road. It is inconceivable that we should want peace, as it is written in psalms [120:7]: I am for peace, but...they are for war. This must be mutual. [end recording]

And what has Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich to say on the threshold of signing a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt? Tzvi Shapira asked him about this. [begin recording]

[Shapira] Finance Minister Ehrlich, how do you feel on your way toward the signing of the treaty?

[Ehrlich] I would say that I feel as though we are jumping into space, that is, into the unknown, hoping that indeed new things we have so far not known about will be revealed: Namely, that there will be real peace with Egypt as the first Arab country. After it, next year or in another 2 or 3 years--we have shown so much patience--additional peace agreements will come. First of all--let this treaty we are going to sign tomorrow stand the test of reality as an agreement for real peace.

[Shapira] What kind of relations do you foresee developing immediately after the signing of the treaty, in the first few months?

[Ehrlich] I would not say that special relations would develop in the first stage. I understand the difficulties of the Egyptians and of the Egyptian Government and its president, who will probably have to maintain a low profile concerning the relations between ourselves and the Egyptians. Therefore, one should not expect something revolutionary in the first few months. However, if everything goes according to plan, no doubt the relations will develop to be neighborly relations.

[Shapira] Would you like to see many Egyptians here and many Israelis in Egypt?

[Ehrlich] For the time being, I would say, it is too early. Too much at once is not necessary. I would say that as a demonstration, or a symbol or gesture of normal relations it would be nice to see a few Egyptians here and some Israelis there, but a very limited number.

[Shapira] And as finance minister, how do you foresee the future situation?

[Ehrlich] First of all, I see what we must do in the Negev to evacuate the IDF from the Sinai. Economically, this is a very difficult undertaking. No doubt we will bear it. We shall have to take many steps and make a lot of effort so that we can carry out these campaigns economically without failures. [end recording]

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON IDF WITHDRAWAL, AID

TA231940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 Mar 79 TA

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori by Jerusalem Radio correspondent Roni Daniyel within the framework of the Weekly Newsreel program--date and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Tzipori, what kind of a Sinai will the Egyptians receive?

In [word indistinct] months, what will be evacuated? What, for example, will be destroyed?

[Answer] The Sinai the Egyptians will receive this time will be different from the one they knew when they left it in 1967 or the same Sinai they received from us in 1957. The difference between what will happen today after signing the peace treaty and what happened in the past is that today we are signing a peace treaty with Egypt and we intend to maintain with them the fair relations of two neighbors living within the framework of neighborly relations. Therefore, the entire infrastructure we have built in the Sinai will remain. The roads, various installations, etc., which cannot be transferred will remain. For example, if we built a house, we will not demolish it. If we put up a prefabricated building which is transferrable, we will transfer it. We do not want to waste the property of the State of Israel. The airfields will remain as they are. Armored underground hangars will not remain. The bunkers with the early warning equipment will not remain. Let us say that, in principle, the Egyptians will receive the area clean and neat, to include those installations which cannot be disassembled.

[Question] With your permission, let us turn to the U.S. part of last week. There was a good U.S. response to Israel's procurement requests: the fact that F-16 aircraft intended for Iran will arrive in Israel. In your view, does this have a technical significance, or something beyond that?

[Answer] I shall start by saying that, since the beginning of relations between the United States and Israel, never were such good and fair agreements reached as those reached with the United States last week or in the last few weeks since Defense Secretary Brown's visit.

[Question] Is this also true with respect to financial matters?

[Answer] Even in financial matters. It seems to me that in the light of the far-reaching changes which have taken place--that adversely affect the Western world--such as Southern Yemen, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and now Iran--Israel's strategic importance has changed in the sense that it is a stable element in this region, stable both in its nature and in its approach toward the Western world. In light of contacts I and my colleagues have had with members of the U.S. administration, it seems likely that this point has been taken to heart. I think all these agreements, which are convenient and good for Israel, that we have achieved over the last few months and weeks stem from this initial understanding that we are today not only some element being supported for U.S. domestic political reasons, but that we also constitute a square in the strategy of the Western world.

[Question] I would like to return to the matter of aid. Exactly what happened in this regard? I am referring to that part of the total financial aid which is a grant. Criticism was leveled at the conditions. Did the Americans promise things from which they then backed away, or had they never promised anything else?

[Answer] First of all, I strongly reject the criticism as being unjustified and unfair in regard to both the people criticized in Israel and the U.S. administration. In the beginning our demands were more modest because our estimates about the evacuation of the Negev [as heard] were lower. After the U.S. team concluded its work on the airfields, it was discovered that the coefficients were a little different and our teams' evaluations increased. However, in the final analysis, the overall aid we are receiving is satisfactory.

[Question] Were there no U.S. promises to provide a larger part as a grant?

[Answer] There was no U.S. promise which has been violated. The United States talked with us in general terms about aid to us and it is giving us aid amounting to $3 billion for the evacuation, which does not include the $1.8 billion we receive annually and with respect to which we will perhaps hold discussions with them on increasing it.

[Question] How many of these dollars would be spent in the Negev? What is the status of the planning work? Is it in fact complete and does only implementation of the plan remain?

[Answer] Complete, no. I would say that the basic plan exists. In the basic plan, I say that I need a road going from Point A to Point B. Now they have started working--and will continue even more speedily--on the details of the route and on planning the work. If I have decided that at a certain place one or another installation would be built, the planning of it will be completed later. We are at the stage in which we know what we want and where we want it, and it is now possible to formulate detailed plans and begin work on several projects.

Removal of IDF Equipment Begins

TA252030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The IDF has already started evacuating nonvital equipment from the Sinai, from the region from which Israel is going to withdraw during the first stage of the pullback according to the peace treaty with Egypt. This is reported by our military correspondent Roni Daniyel.

Large-scale infrastructure work is now underway along the interim withdrawal line and the IDF soldiers have started to deploy along it.

SHARON ACCUSES U.S. OFFICIAL OF SUBVERSION IN GAZA

TA232040 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 23 Mar 79 TA

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon by 'Oded Goren--place and date not given--videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Sharon] It is difficult to believe that on certain issues, on which I and some colleagues in the Cabinet had demanded a discussion--even before the agreement has been signed--Israel has been asked to make gestures which completely change the situation on a host of issues, some of which are highly significant. Israel is asked to permit freedom of movement for the Arabs in the territories despite the fact that this exists--and this also applies to PLO-supporters in the territories--and to permit political organizing. Israel is also asked to evacuate its headquarters in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria earlier than had been agreed. I am basing this only on things which were publicized in the media--both Egyptian and U.S. If I had told what I know the picture would have been even more serious.

[Question] Why don't you reveal what you know?

[Answer] There are things that one learns in a Cabinet session, and I am not accustomed to revealing information that comes from Cabinet sessions.

Israel is also asked to release terrorists.

What seems to me the most serious demand is to limit almost totally the movement of the IDF in the Gaza Strip. We all remember the terrorist activity that took place in the Gaza Strip until recently and we can certainly understand the consequences of this, should it be accepted.

To this I would also add something which I think should astonish all of us. U.S. Embassy representatives' actions in the Gaza Strip in my view, are improper and hard to believe. I should like to point out that one of the embassy employees, Mr Ted Feifer--he is not the only one and this was not the only contact, there are many contacts--is making contacts in the strip with Arab leaders, Gaza Strip leaders who are PLO supporters.

Now, if he had come to convince them of the importance of accepting autonomy, that would have been legitimate. But when he explains to them that the United States will pressure Israel and will limit Israel's activity in the Gaza Strip and that in the stage following the U.S. pressure and these limitations imposed by the United States a Palestinian State will be established, this is inconceivable.

U.S. Embassy Denial

TA232045 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The U.S. Embassy spokesman quickly denied Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon's comment that Embassy employees are maintaining contacts with PLO supporters in Gaza.

The spokesman told our correspondent Dan Eshel that Ted Feifer, the official referred to by Minister Sharon, has never transgressed from routine U.S. Embassy activity in the territories.

In the television interview, Minister Sharon said that Ted Feifer told Gaza inhabitants that the United States would pressure Israel into recognizing the PLO and agreeing to the establishment of a Palestinian state. The spokesman said that this was not true.

LARGE-SCALE WEST BANK SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY PLANNED

TA251916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel] [Text] The Agriculture Ministry, the World Zionist Federation and settlement elements are now preparing for a large-scale settlement operation in Judaea and Samaria. This operation is intended to create faits accomplis in the territory designated for autonomy. Activating the settlement operation now depends on the government's decision. Before travelling to Washington the prime minister promised to support this settlement operation. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh sums up the major points of the settlement plan and reports also about a new building plan intended to speed up these settlement acts.

[Ben-Melekh] If the government indeed makes this possible and if autonomy does not get in the way of implementing the master plan for developing settlements in Judaea and Samaria, then within 5 years, 46 new settlements will be added to this region. The master plan as prepared by Matityahu Drobles, the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, talks of the addition of 27,000 families and a total investment of 54 billion Israeli pounds.

The settlements will be set up in groups, in regional blocs, with the intention that after a while all the settlements of the bloc will be able to merge into a single urban settlement.

Settlements will be established not only around the existing Arab settlements but also among them. They will be set up on state-owned lands and not on private, registered Arab land, and no lands will therefore be expropriated.

Some of the planned settlements have already been approved over the last few months by the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs. The settlements in question are those adjacent to existing settlements. So, for example, Ma'ale Ha'adumim B will be set up next to Ma'ale Ha'adumim, Qarney Shomron B will be set up near Qarney Shomron, another Neve Zuf will be set up near the existing Neve Zuf in Samaria, the town of Efrat near El'azar and Teqo'a, and Yatir A, B and C will be set up near Yatir, which is located in the Hebron mountains.

The settlement elements, including the Agriculture Ministry, now demand that the government also approve those settlements which are not adjacent to existing settlement points. The slogan nowadays is taking settlement out of the underground, conducting action openly, without the coverup of fleshing-out or enlarging.

However, the implementation of the settlement plans not only depends on the political factor but also on the financial factor. The investment needed for the first year of the 5-year intensive settlement is 16 billion pounds, and an additional 9.5 billion pounds for each of the 4 following years.

In order to promote the issue of erecting the settlements quickly and with the lowest possible expenditures, the Zionist Federation is going to enlist the services of a new building company founded by the maritime company owned by Ya'aqov Meridor. The building company is headed by Mordekhay Tajar, the man who until about 3 months ago served as a professional assistant of Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. The company undertook to build quickly and integrate prefabricated parts and blocks in its building program. The average price is 6,000 pounds for every square meter. Each building unit will consist of at least 90 square meters and each building unit will be covered with a tile roof and resemble a villa. In the first stage, after the financial details are concluded with the Finance and Housing Ministries and if the company indeed wins the tender for itself, the company will, within about a year, construct 1,000 housing units. The company will give a credit for 10 years and it was suggested that if the Housing Ministry finds itself short of money to finance these building plans, the Zionist Federation will give a special-term loan guaranteed by the Finance Ministry. Incidentally, some of these buildings are intended for the Galilee, for the Besor district and for immigrants' settlements.

The Zionist Federation considers the building method proposed by Ya'aqov Meridor's company as revolutionary in the construction field in Israel. The first settlement to enjoy it will be Elon More, the Gush Emunim's new settlement which is going to be set up near the southern approaches of Nabulus. In 10 days the 3-month waiting period the government allotted to the Elon More nucleus members when they camped on the road near Qaddum will expire. In the meantime, the area for the settlement has already been located, in the vicinity of Jabal Rujayb. The nucleus' members, like the members of the rural settlement department of the Zionist Federation, are now waiting for the government's announcement calling on them to go and settle in Shekhem [Nabulus]. They say that the Israeli Shekhem is the first settlement test of the government after the signing of the peace treaty and depending on the outcome, one will be able to ascertain whether it is heading toward extensive settlement in Judaea and Samaria or toward negotiations with Egypt and the United States about the future of this region.

PARTIAL COMMERCIAL STRIKE, UNREST IN EAST JERUSALEM

TA241119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Unrest in the old city of Jerusalem: Since this morning several hundred Arab youths carrying sticks and stones have been assembling in the Temple Mount area. A rumor was spread to the effect that Jews intend to pray on the Temple Mount and they wish to prevent this. One of the shaykhs appealed to the youths through a loudspeaker and said that the police would not permit the entry of Jewish worshippers to the Temple Mount.

Stones and bottles were thrown in Haggay Street in the old city about an hour ago. There is a commercial strike within the old city walls and most shops in Salah ad-Din Street and Sultan Sulayman Street beyond the walls are closed. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that police are trying to locate the shopowners and persuade them to reopen. They are taking down the names of people who have closed their shops.

Security Measures Increased

TA251655 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 24 Mar 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The police inspector general, Commissioner Hayim Tavori, today reported to the Cabinet about yesterday's events in East Jerusalem. The police have today increased their alert in the city and quiet prevailed there today. Our correspondent Raz Livnat reports:

[Livnat] Commissioner Hayim Tavori and the police commander of the Southern Command, Arye Ivtzan, provided details about yesterday's occurrences. The Cabinet discussed the details and took decisions accordingly.

Police and security forces in Jerusalem have been on the alert since yesterday. In addition to the increased patrols and heightened vigilance, preparations have been made for tomorrow, the peace treaty-signing day, and demonstrations and unrest are expected.

Arab female students carrying signs demonstrated on the Temple Mount before noon today as a continuation of yesterday's events. A number of Arab youths who tried to get to the Temple Mount with the intention of violating order were driven off by policemen who allowed only the regular people who pray in the mosques to enter the area of the Temple Mount. Large numbers of tourists and visitors were noted on the Temple Mount and, except for the female students' demonstration and the Arab youths' abortive attempts to climb the Temple Mount, quiet prevailed in the area.

Tension could be felt in East Jerusalem but it was not expressed in extraordinary events. It should be noted that several more events are expected this week and these call for special vigilance on the part of the security forces. In addition to the peace treaty signing ceremony tomorrow, rallies are expected on Friday, Land Day; on Saturday, the Eurovision Song Festival Day, a large-scale guarding operation is expected. The Jerusalem police have set up a special command in the old city to be headed by Deputy Commander Tzvi Ben-Eliyahu, the commanding officer of Jerusalem subdistrict, to coordinate this operation in the next few days.

REPORTAGE ON CONTACTS, INCIDENTS IN SANANDAJ

Taleqani's Contacts

LD231700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, accompanied by the delegation sent to Sanandaj, which has been in Kordestan for the past 2 days, yesterday had discussions at Razi University with the representatives of the peoples of Kordestan. During these discussions it was agreed that the areas surrounding the barracks should be evacuated and that those who have been arrested should be freed. According to reports, the points of the agreement have been implemented. We must add that Ayatollah Taleqani also had meetings, discussions and an exchange of views with various groups' representatives today at the Sanandaj stadium. We have the following telephone report from Sanandaj:

Following the recent unrest of the past few days in Sanandaj, yesterday and today the capital of Kordestan was calm. Yesterday afternoon at the freedom square, Ayatollah Taleqani spoke to the people of Sanandaj and to another group of residents of rural and urban areas of Kordestan regarding the problems of this province, as well as the present conditions in the country. He asked the people to preserve peace and order. Ayatollah Taleqani asked the people of Sanandaj to put aside their differences and to first elect true representatives acceptable to all of them, so that they can (?participate) in the discussions. Following the ayatollah's comment, Dr Beheshti made some remarks. Later Mr Bani Sadr, amid the shouting of a number of participants, promised to eliminate the existing misunderstanding regarding the problems of Kordestan. Also last night from the radio-television center of Sanandaj Bani Sadr spoke to the people of this province.

Contacts between members of the group sent by Imam Khomeyni and representatives of the people of Kordestan also continued today. Ayatollah Taleqani and his companions spoke to a number of hospital workers at the 200-bed hospital of Sanandaj. Investigation of the demands of the peoples of Kordestan, and efforts at finding out about the views of our Kurdish compatriots, as well. [sentence incomplete]

Publicity Office Statement

LD231340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] We have received the following statement from the Iman's publicity office today:

In His Almighty name: In its 2 days in Sanandaj, the mission sent to Kordestan by the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, the Imam Khomeyni, under the leadership of the Ayatollah Taleqani, achieved great success in establishing understanding among Muslim brethren. As expected, the Islamic leaders and the great scholars of the Muslims in the Kurdish-inhabited areas of Iran were inspired by the Koran's edict: "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah's favor on you. For ye were enemies and he joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace ye became brethren," which enjoins Muslim brethren to refrain from any discord or difference, and calls them to greater unity and monolithism. The Islamic leaders and scholars recognized that the unity of all Muslims was the most important factor in the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution, and expressed their firm resolve to preserve that solidarity and brotherhood.

According to reliable information, they believe that the attack on the Sanandaj garrison, which resulted in the sad incidents this week and in the martyrdom of dozens of our Muslim Kurdish and Persian brethren, was instigated by hypocritical, opportunist and mercenary enemies--enemies whose connections with foreign powers have been known by the Iranian nation for some time now.

During the great rally in Sanandaj yesterday, the same divisive elements also attempted, by shouting and heckling, to disrupt the speeches which His Eminence the Ayatollah Taleqani, the Ayatollah Dr Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti and His Excellency Dr Bani Sadr addressed to tens of thousands of our Kurdish brethren. During their talks with the Kurdish Islamic and national leaders, particularly his reverence the very learned Mr Ahmad Moftizadeh, the delegation jointly and strongly emphasized the most important problem in Iran today; that is, safeguarding the Islamic revolution and showing vigilance vis-a-vis the plots and subversions instigated by mercenaries attached to the previous regime and by opportunist and divisive elements. The delegation also stressed the need to protect the just rights of the Kurdish Muslim people and to guard the local language and culture, and all the rights ignored under the colonialist and inhuman policies of the defunct Pahlavi regime.

It is axiomatic that the intelligence and faithfulness of the Kurdish Islamic and national leaders, and the vigilance of the Muslim brethren in that region, will not allow the pure blood of innumerable martyrs of the Islamic revolution to be trampled under foot by enemy plotting and instigation of confrontations between brethren who share the same thoughts and homeland.

Taleqani Visits Hospital

LD231824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to reports from our correspondent, this morning His Excellency Taleqani, accompanied by Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, Abdolhasan Bani Sadr and Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi visited those wounded in the bloody events of the past few days at the 200-bed hospital of Sanandaj.

While inquiring about the conditions and well-being of a few patients, and making a personal inquiry about the occurrence of these events, Ayatollah Taleqani went to the assembly room of this hospital, where a group of Sanandaj people were present. In the course of a conversation which took place between Ayatollah Taleqani and the people, the people of Sanandaj discussed their various problems with him.

Ayatollah Taleqani said at the beginning that the clergy, who had fought to defeat the giant of dictatorship and its mercenaries despite all the agents, other elements and weapons that had been available to them, had only done this to make it possible for the Iranian nation to live freely, independently and magnanimously. He said: We had expected that after the collapse of absolutism, all of you--and especially the youth who have to rebuild this country with your hands--would stride forward together along this path. Do not display opposing slogans. Preserve your unity so that we can reach a constructive era. Continuing his remarks about unity and the necessity for oneness, he said: Unfortunately, after the victory, as was expected by religious and political leaders as well as by the world, we were not able to show our unity.

At this point, Ayatollah Taleqani asked: Who are the individuals who want to break apart the unity of this nation? I am once again complaining about you. We have come to pour out our hearts in a quiet atmosphere. Your demands are our demands, and our demands are your demands.

His Excellency Ayatollah Taleqani said: We stand for those who are defenseless. This government has been working hard. It works day and night. We must not complain about a government which has only been in existence for only a few weeks. This government has good intentions. Engineer Bazargan, who was a university professor, neither held a university post, nor received a salary from anyone. We have imposed the post of prime minister upon him. While making remarks about the differences between an error and an intentional act, he said: Everyone makes mistakes. A mistake is different from a bad intention.

Today at this meeting, a number of Sanandaj people discussed their problems with Ayatollah Taleqani. They stressed the fact that they, that is the Kurds, are not separatists, and that whenever the elements of dictatorship wanted to crush the Kurdish people, they were accused and labeled by them as separatists.

Report on Casualties

ID231826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 ID

[Text] According to reports by the PARS correspondent, many people were killed or injured in the recent events in Sanandaj. A number of those wounded had to be taken to hospitals in other cities.

Orumiyeh Demonstration

ID231818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 ID

[Text] According to reports from a PARS correspondent, this morning tens of thousands of Kurds of the city of Orumiyeh [formerly Reza'iyeh] and other Kurdish settlements of Western Azarbaijan began to demonstrate in the streets of this city in protest against the Sanandaj events. This march began from Daneshkadeh Avenue and, after passing through Zanganeh Avenue, Zeynab Kobra Avenue and Askarabadi Avenue, ended in front of the A'zam Mosque. One of the leaders of these demonstrations told the PARS correspondent that the purpose of these demonstrations is to condemn all kinds of separatism, adding we want those responsible for the slaughter at Sanandaj to be punished.

Taleqani Address in Sanandaj Mosque

ID241347 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, accompanied by Dr Beheshti and Abdolhasan Bani Sadr, attended a meeting at the Jame' Mosque of Sanandaj with thousands of the people of Sanandaj present. When His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani arrived at the Jame' Mosque, thousands of people greeted him and his companions. Dr Beheshti spoke first at this gathering, and after that His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani spoke about the Islamic revolution in Iran. He said: Our revolution started from the mosques--mosques full of movements, mosques from which the responsible religious leaders familiarized our youth and our university students and professors with Islam, a revolutionary Islam.

Then Ayatollah Taleqani, referring to accusations about the separatism of the people of Kordestan, said: Accusations made against you are the remnants of the corrupt regime. When they labeled me a Marxist, it was quite obvious what the nature of the accusations about your separatism would be.

But as has been repeatedly mentioned, you are entitled to certain rights--even freedom regarding your own destiny. No individual or power can ignore this right. If you are not given this right, you must ask for it, but not through quarrels or war. This right is not something that can be given to you, it is yours.

At the end of his remarks, His Eminence Taleqani said: My Kurdish brothers, ulema and Kurdish leaders signed a manifesto a few days ago which contains three main articles and several subarticles. We forwarded this declaration to the prime ministers' office, and I was told yesterday by telephone from the office of the prime minister that this three-point declaration was presented to Imam Khomeyni by the prime minister and his companions, and that the imam had said that the Kurds deserve it. After Ayatollah Taleqani's remarks, Mr Ahmad Moftizadeh spoke to the people of Sanandaj.

Negotiations 'Close to Accord'

LD241259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The negotiations in Sanandaj between the delegation sent from Tehran and the representatives of Kordestan are finally close to an accord. Right now discussion of the details of this accord is under way at the residence of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani at Razi University.

According to a report by a PARS correspondent, it is said that the final communique about this accord will be officially released by the end of today. The same report adds that the city of Sanandaj resumed normal life today, and there is no sign of armed persons in the streets who had taken over the city until a few days ago.

One of the main points of the accord, which has not been officially announced yet, is the release of the individuals under arrest at Sanandaj garrison. In return, the people have agreed to refrain from approaching the garrison and to refrain from shooting at the persons stationed there. Troops stationed at the garrison will remain at their post and refrain from entering the city. All of the installations that were occupied by armed individuals will be evacuated. Furthermore, evacuation of the army headquarters and relinquishing the radio and television building and the airport are among the main conditions of the accord.

'Thousands' Gather

LD241745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Thousands of residents of Sanandaj and the other cities of Kordestan took part in a large gathering at the city's Azadi Square at 1600 at the invitation of the Islamic committee of the Sanandaj bazaar. They expressed appreciation for the genuine efforts of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and his accompanying delegation, who played a significant role in restoring tranquility to Sanandaj city. At this gathering, several representatives of the people expressed thanks for the presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani in Kordestan, and declared the support of the people of this part of the homeland for an Islamic republic.

Detainees To Be Released

LD241756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to reports received from Sanandaj, the first round of talks of the delegation sent to Sanandaj with the people's representatives of Kordestan has come to an end. After several hours of discussion and exchanges of views, it was agreed that those arrested during a raid on the Sanandaj barracks should be released. Mr Abolhasan Bani Sadr, a member of the delegation, while addressing a gathering assembled at the residence of Ayatollah Taleqani in front of Razi university, announced that these individuals will be released from the barracks within the next few hours. It is being said that these people number about 100.

Sources close to the talks said: It was also agreed at the talks today that until the holding of an election to elect representatives of the Sanandaj people to take charge of the city's administration, a five-man committee will take over this responsibility. This five-man delegation has been assigned the task of immediately preparing for the election of the city council members. Sources close to the delegation are expressing the hope that in this way, the issue which caused bloody events during the past week in the city will be peacefully resolved. It is expected that the delegation will leave Sanandaj for Tehran tomorrow.

Council of Representatives

LD241810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now draw your attention to a report just received from our correspondent in Sanandaj:

[Correspondent--begin recording] The Ayatollah Taleqani announced this afternoon in Sanandaj that a five-person council, consisting of representatives of various groups in Sanandaj, will be set up immediately to temporarily administer local affairs. The group will be required to take preliminary steps for the election of a council to take over the administration of the city in place of the Islamic operational staff and the Revolutionary Committee, for a period of 6 months.

Several thousand of our Kurdish brothers assembled this afternoon in Azadi Square in a spring rain and listened to a speech by Ayatollah Taleqani. While supporting the leadership of the Islamic revolution, the assembled crowd demanded the establishment of an Islamic republic; it also expressed its support for scholar Ahmad Moftizadeh as its representative. The demonstrators also called on Mr Moftizadeh to take part in the council proposed by the Ayatollah Taleqani on behalf of the inhabitants of Sanandaj, and to restore their rights which had been violated.

After the gathering, the participants headed for the teachers' training college, where Imam Khomeyni's delegation is staying, and expressed their gratitude to the Ayatollah Taleqani for his attention to Kordestan problems. The demonstrators were chanting: "Neither West, Nor East, But an Islamic Republic" and "Long Live Khomeyni, Long Live Taleqani."

It is expected that within the next few hours the text of the minutes of the meeting, signed by the delegation and the representatives of the Kurdish people, will be made public. It should be noted that Sanandaj was very quiet today and business was normal. [end recording]

Taleqani TV, Radio Speech

LD242214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Radio-television speech by Ayatollah Taleqani, delivered earlier on 24 March in Sanandaj--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God Almighty: Dear brothers, sisters and beloved children of the land of Kordestan: I send greetings to you, the sons of this land, this land of heroes, land of the (?border guards), land of brave people, land of the [word indistinct] and land of the oppressed. Dear Kurdish brothers, sisters and children, my friends and I have been in your homeland for [word indistinct] days. Despite the preoccupations and engagements that we have in the capital, we came and were glad to give a reply to your voices, the reason for this being that during our hard struggles against the satanic regime--with the endeavor and unity of the entire Iranian nation--at this major and historic (?stage) and [words indistinct] of life, we were always concerned over the plots, [word indistinct] that the agents are among us in order to create differences, hostility and conflict among our noble nation. I was always concerned over this especially important region and this [words indistinct]. Unfortunately, a fire was kindled in this region and in the city of Sanandaj, and (?we witnessed) the expansion of this blaze in all the region and even all of Iran. Thanks be to God and thanks to the good understanding, good will and honesty of you, the Kurdish brothers and sisters of Sanandaj, we had a close look at the issues and events and the causes of them. [passage indistinct]

We knew that, after the initial victory, our enemies and the plunderers who ruled for long years over our lives and properties and over all the sources of human talents and our land were not sitting silent, and had not stopped their encroachments. For this reason, we were always concerned over these plots, and we still are. The removal of these anxieties and the prevention and frustration of these cunning tricks depend on the discretion, alertness and preservation of unity among you. This revolution has advanced to its present stage thanks to the leadership of the religious personages and responsible religious, political and national leaders, especially His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni. You are now responsible for the continuation of this revolution, responsible for passing through this historic turning point, and responsible for the future generation of the people of this land.

I ask you to preserve your solidarity. I ask you to preserve your unity. I ask you to be watchful and alert toward the enemies, and to frustrate provocation. I ask you to reach out to the weak, the deprived and the oppressed, and to close the gaps between you. I ask you to make your homeland green and prosperous with your efforts, and to try to remove (?deprivations) with the support of the central government (?and all the strata of the people). You, the Kurdish nation, are accountable and responsible for declaring your wishes, your legitimate wishes, for regulating the wishes that you may have, for separating what is to have priority from that which needs more time, for demanding that which the government can do within its present possibilities, and for putting in order that which is for the future.

Thanks to God and to the efforts of our friends and the sincere cooperation and enthusiasm of brothers and sisters, we have now reached the conclusion that a provisional council will be established in the city of Sanandaj, the provincial center of this part of Kordestan. It will take charge of duties for the preservation of security and meeting essential needs. This provisional council will soon hold a free election for the formation of the municipal council. I hope that the people will freely elect their representatives for a specified period. I hope that this council will be an example for all of our country, our groups who are residing in towns and villages, and that this council will be an example of a free and supreme council whose members will be the real representatives of the people and reflect your maturity. This was the initial stage, whose foundations we laid here. We have reached a result, the fruit of which will soon, with the help of God, be announced.

Another issue which caused difficulty here related to a number of our brothers who were held ransom by our army servicemen due to misunderstandings that came about between the people and the army. We are currently trying to have them returned to their homes. I would once more like to ask all the people of Kordestan and Iran to eliminate the misunderstandings that occasionally occur between the people and government officials, especially our officers, soldiers and NCO's, through good understanding, and to realize that this army is no longer a satanic army. It is not an army for crushing the people. Those elements who have remained from the previous regime and possess the same spirit, mentality and arrogance, and still regard themselves as separate from the people, or have committed errors or violations, should be purged. Yesterday, I talked for a while with your army brothers and the soldiers, officers, NCO's and commanders, and benefited from their good will and good understanding. We described to them the conclusions that ought to have been drawn--which they themselves were aware--concerning themselves and their manner. The present army ought to be like our brother, our right hand in the country. Its commanders should enjoy the support of the people of every region. Those brothers, in whichever region they are, who may have a complaint, should explain their complaint without any restriction to the general staff command in Tehran.

Another issue is the approach of a referendum throughout the country. As you know, the people expressed their vote through repeated demonstrations, but in order to make it acceptable to the world and free of objection by others, aliens and some internal critics, as Imam Khomeyni has said, a referendum ought to be held so that everyone can give his vote freely and cast it in the ballot box.

Kordestan Agreements

LD242252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2230 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, the interior minister, in an interview broadcast last evening by Sanandaj radio and television, announced the result of the talks and agreements which have been reached with the various groups of the people of Kordestan. At the same time, the interior minister introduced Dr Ebrahim Yunesi as the governor general of Kordestan.

Outcome of Talks

LD251252 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 25 March carries a 9-minute report from its correspondent in Sanandaj on the final round of talks held between the delegation led by Ayatollah Taleqani and local representatives. The correspondent says that the statement issued after the final round of talks promises the Kurds that they will be allowed to participate in the formulation and approval of the new constitution, that "the Kurdish language, together with the Persian language, will be taught in Kurdish regions," and that measures will be taken for the welfare of the Kurds.

After reading a seven-point statement, the correspondent says: "In the course of talks with the representatives of various groups, it was also decided that a five-member council will temporarily take over the administration of the city for a period of 1 week; that once general elections are held, a council elected by the people will be appointed to administer the affairs of the city for 6 months. Furthermore, the delegation called on the Provisional Islamic Government to release those arrested in recent incidents. This request was immediately accepted and has been enforced. Additionally, it was decided that places such as the airport, the army general staff headquarters and television headquarters, which had been occupied by various groups, will be returned to the authorities. Moreover, maximum efforts must be exerted to hand over the weapons seized by various groups and unauthorized individuals to the authorities, to avoid any unpleasant confrontations with the army brothers."

The correspondent ends his report by referring to the final part of the statement, which thanks the local people for their cooperation in restoring calm.

New Governor Addresses People

LD261010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Yesterday Mr Ebrahim Yunesi, the new governor general of Kordestan, addressed the following announcement to the people of this province:

"In the name of God, dear Kurdish brothers and sisters: Now that the delegation sent by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni--headed by His Eminence Taleqani--and the delegation sent by the Provisional Government of the Islamic Revolution of Iran--headed by His Excellency Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, the minister of the interior--have returned to Tehran, I wish to bring up a few points with my dear sisters and brothers.

Those brothers and sisters who know me realize that I accepted the duty alloted to me for the sole purpose of service. I accepted this great responsibility at this critical era of our history so that, with the aid of God and with the help of my fellow citizens, I may be useful to the people of Kordestan. Be sure that I am sufficiently remote from ambition and self-exaltation that if I am no longer useful in this post, I shall not hesitate to end my responsibility. It is obvious that in carrying out my responsibilities, I am the smaller part of the question, while you constitute the greater part, and you should assist me in my work. I am only a drop in the ocean made up of all of you. If you regard me as one of you, then I, too, shall become an ocean. Otherwise I shall remain the drop that I am.

I always treasure the guidance of my dear sisters and brothers, and I shall do my best to realize the rights of the people of Kordestan on their behalf. I expect and I beg all my dear brothers and sisters, especially the religious leaders, intellectuals, professionals, and university professors of the Province of Kordestan, to assist me in this great task. With respect and best wishes for the health and success of you, my dear fellow citizens. Ebrahim Yunesi.

BAZARGAN, ENTEZAM VISIT ABADAN, KHORRAMSHSHR 24 MARCH

LD241231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Eng Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the Provisional Government of the Iranian Islamic revolution, together with 'Abbas Amir Entezam, deputy prime minister and government spokesman, and Rear Admiral Madani, minister of national defense, arrived in Abadan by air at 1030 this morning and were welcomed at the airport by the governor of Abadan, the commander of the Khorramshahr naval base, religious leaders and local officials from Abadan and Khorramshahr harbors.

At Abadan airport, one of the religious leaders, on behalf of the religious community, greeted the prime minister and his companions on their arrival. Then the prime minister in a speech at the airport congratulated all Khuzestani sisters and brothers on the new year, and noted: When I set foot on the soil of Khuzestan, particularly Abadan, an incredible sense of sympathy overcomes me. This sympathy is the result of the sorry tragedy which befell the citizens of this town during the arson incident in the Rex Cinema. Of course, the people of all Iranian cities have had an effective role in bringing the revolution into fruition. The prime minister expressed the hope that the government would be able as soon as possible to investigate the incident in Abadan's Rex Cinema, and would bring to account the perpetrators of this crime for their barbarous deeds.

Engineer Bazargan and his companions then left for Khorramshahr. There he visited His Great Eminence Shaykh Mohammad Taher Al Shobeyr Khaqani, with whom he had talks.

Bazargan Airport Speech

LD241429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] As reported earlier, Prime Minister Bazargan, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Amir Entezam and Commodore Madani, the minister of national defense, arrived in Abadan by plane and delivered a speech at the airport. We now draw your attention to Mr Bazargan's speech at Abadan airport: [begin recording]

Honorable eminent ulema, military and civilian colleagues and my oil industry colleagues: I take the liberty of referring to the oil workers as colleagues because I personally have had some background in this field. My dear workers and brothers--whether in the private sector and bazaar, academic, young or old--it is a source of pleasure for me and my colleagues accompanying me to express our first greetings (?after 2 years) to the people of Khuzestan, and at the same time to congratulate you on the new year, a formula and trend formerly practiced only in Tehran.

We hope that with God's blessing and the cooperation of all classes of people of this country, we may increase our solidarity, cooperation and preparedness to overcome deprivation and difficulties, and build equality and friendship, as we demonstrated in the course of the aggression and achieved success. When we set foot on the soil of Khuzestan, particularly Abadan, [as heard] of course all Iranian cities, all Iranian people, from west to east, whether in the capital city or provincial cities or the remotest parts, have impressively and prominently cooperated in overcoming our problems and difficulties.

They have all made sacrifices for this purpose. Each of these cities and towns has done its part, created an epoch, suffered tragedies and sadness. However, of all these, considering its position and [word indistinct] Abadan suffered most when the dictatorship, drawing its final breath, inflicted on the people of Abadan the tragedy of the disgraceful and shameful Rex Cinema incident.

Unfortunately, our program is a brief one here, for I will have to go to Azarbaijan tomorrow and visit Esfahan tonight in order to attend to certain tasks. Therefore, the program here is limited only to expressing our greetings and congratulations to you. Consequently, we bid you farewell because we must go to Khorramshahr, where our Arab and Persian brothers are awaiting us. Afterwards, hopefully between 1500 and 1600 today we will return here and meet the ladies and gentlemen somewhere in Abadan. Later, we will leave for Esfahan. Once again, we thank you for your sentiments. [end recording]

Entezam Radio Interview

LD241722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Government Spokesman Amir Entezam gave an interview this afternoon to an Abadan radio and television correspondent, in which he spoke about the cause and perpetrators of the Rex Cinema fire in Abadan, and the use of oil industry facilities by various classes of people in Abadan, as well as other issues.

Commenting on issues discussed with His Eminence Shaykh Mohammad Taher Al Shobsyr Khaqani in Khorramshahr, he said: The points raised concern the wishes of the people of Khuzestan. These issues have been noted and will be attended to. Entezam said: As the wishes of all Iranian people are being considered by the government and will be attended to in due course, issues related to Khuzestan and Khorramshahr will be studied by the government as well. The government will look into these problems, and without any discrimination it will grant equal rights to our Iranian Arabic-speaking brothers, similar to those granted to Turkish-speaking or Kurdish-speaking brothers in Iran.

The government spokesman said: One of the issues which has really surprised us during this tour has been the rumors spread with regard to some alleged remarks said to have been made by me about our Arabic-speaking Iranian brothers. I strongly deny these rumors.

Bazargan Addresses Abadan Rally

LD251056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, who arrived in Abadan this morning, delivered a speech this evening to thousands of people at Takhti stadium. He said: The post-revolutionary nation, a people which is in the process of reconstruction, does not recognize any hostility, dispute or duality--duality of race, duality of language or duality of ideologies.

At this rally--which was also attended by Rear Admiral Madani, the minister of national defense, and Amir Entezam, the deputy prime minister and government spokesman--referring to his earlier visits to Khuzestan, including his visit during the premiership of Dr Mosaddeq which was to disarm the British, and that of a few months ago to resume oil production for domestic consumption, as well as the current one, aimed at conveying the Iranian people's message of friendship, Mr Bazargan said: Thank God, and yourselves, workers, employees and businessmen, my mission was carried out successfully and agreeably.

This time too, since we are dealing with the same God and the same nation, the hope of victory, which I must say is a hundred times more difficult under the process of reconstruction, requiring more sacrifices, will be great.

Continuing his speech, the prime minister said: Our revolution materialized as a result of the solidarity, fraternity and bonds between all the Iranian people and all classes and strata: This is an Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni.

In conclusion, in reference to the struggle launched by the brave oil workers, Mr Bazargan said: If we look at the recent movement, we see that the final blow was dealt the enemy by the oil industry workers. Thank God Almighty and all you oil workers, the giant oil industry remained intact. In the past, we used to export 5.5 million barrels of oil per day. During the past 2 weeks, agreements have been signed for production of 2 million barrels per day. Despite the evil intentions of the enemies and those who cannot tolerate the liberation and prosperity of the Iranian people, we will, God willing, sign more agreements. Mr Bazargan's speech was received with great enthusiasm by the people. He left Abadan this evening.

Bazargan on Talks With Khaqani

LD242314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Correspondent's interview with Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan on 24 March; place not given--recorded]

[Text] Question: Thank Your Excellency for this interview. May I ask what your principal aim was in visiting Khuzestan?

[Answer] The aim of my visit was to meet with the compatriots. It was decided by the cabinet in the last week of the previous year that ministers should go to the cities and different parts of Iran and get in touch with the people, and find out about their views, feelings, support or lack of support in their localities, and convey the government's, the nation's and the ayatollah's greetings. (My first visit was) to Esfahan; of course, I did not contact the people in Esfahan. I went there mainly to work. Then I went to Khuzestan, Khorramshahr and Abadan. God willing, I will go to Tabriz tomorrow.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, can you comment on the subject of your talks with His Excellency Sheykh Mohammad Taher Khaqani?

[Answer] Ayatollah Sheykh Mohammad Taher Khaqani is an esteemed, learned, nationalistic, Muslim, loving, respected figure of Iran who has always defended Islam and the Ja'fari faith and the unity, nationalism and independence of Iran. Ever since Ayatollah Khomeyni began this uprising, he sympathized and supported the ayatollah. When I came on a mission concerning oil for domestic consumption 2 and 1/2 months ago, it was on my schedule to visit Ayatollah Khaqani, too, but engagements in Agha Jari and other places prevented this. (?To compensate) for that, the defense minister, General Madani, and Engineer Amir Entezam came with me, and both parties are very pleased about this meeting.

Incidentally, rumors have been circulated that--God forbid--some Arabic-speaking compatriots have unacceptable wishes and complaints, and in particular that their Persian-speaking compatriots have caused them discomfort. We can now say--thank God--that with our own eyes we saw that almost all the people have no other feelings and desires but to endorse the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Khomeyni and the provisional government.

Their emotions, support and desire were so intense and obvious that neither the ayatollah nor myself were able to speak. We made speeches in Abadan which must have reached their ears through television, and we said and showed that no form of conflict, deceit and--God forbid--animosity is nurtured by the Iranian nation within itself against the Turk, Turk against Arab and Arab against the Kurd or anyone else, and, just as at the early stage of the revolution, they have all come forward with one word and united. They ought to proceed now in the same manner.

I observed that this same thought and endorsement exists among the tribal people of Khorramshahr, as well as among the Persian-speaking people of Abadan, whether they were workers or employees, or people in the street and the market. God willing, we will return to Tehran happy in the knowledge of love, friendship and sincerity.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, at the end of your visit--(?I know you are pressed with time)--you are leaving for Esfahan. Do you have a message for the people of Khuzestan?

[Answer] I have no special message other than greetings, prayers, congratulations and the wish for progress and success, and the government's special thanks to the people of Khuzestan and the oil industry workers, which I pointed out in my speech; also, thanks for the expression of their love, friendship and prayers for the progress of the government--as this government is serving the wishes of this nation.

KHOMEYNI CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR REFERENDUM BY MEN, WOMEN

LD240920 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the Imam Khomeyni:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate: May Almighty God lend support to the entire struggling and valiant Iranian nation. At this extremely sensitive juncture when the destiny of the country and that of dear Islam is being determined, the dear compatriots should participate in the referendum with ever greater ardor. Neglecting to take part in the referendum, and coolness and slackness in this vital matter, today renders futile the shedding of the blood of the martyrs, and causes the emasculation of the state and dear Islam.

My vigilant friends, referendum day is the time to obtain results from many years of hard work. It is necessary for me to remind you of the need for the participation of the struggling and valiant women throughout Iran in the referendum. Those women who played a fundamental role not only at the side of the men, but ahead of them in the victory of the Islamic revolution should act to assure that by their active participation they increasingly guarantee the victory of the Iranian nation. Participation in this matter is a national and Islamic duty for all men and women.

Vote freely for anything you wish. I personally will vote for the Islamic republic, and I fraternally request you to assist me in this Islamic issue. It is essential that our zealous youth prevent plots and treachery involving the voting of the people, and faithfully safeguard polling boxes.

I beseech Almighty God to grant victory to Islam and guard the Islamic state. And may peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO REVOLUTION 'GUARDIANS'

LD251754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni today issued a message addressed to the guardians of the revolution. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty: Dear offspring of Islam, sacrificing soldiers and guardians of Islam, let the Almighty's help be with them. On the occasion of this new year I commend you, the courageous and valiant young ones who brought the nightmare of colonialism to its knees. I thank you, the dear strugglers, who brought to fruition the sapling of freedom in this land and territory. I pray to Almighty God for your greater success in achieving the ultimate victory. At this crucial moment when the remnants of our defeated enemy are lying in wait, maintain your unity and fraternity and do not allow the enemy an opportunity to renew his activity by your disunity and disputes. I do not neglect my good prayers for you, dear ones.

[Signed] Ruhollah Khomeyni, 25 March 1979.

KHOMEYNI SIDES WITH ARABS OPPOSING EGYPT-ISRAEL TREATY

LD251116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, in a message issued today announced the Iranian revolution's stand vis-a-vis the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Following is the text of the message:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: For more than 15 years, I have been pointing out the threat posed by usurping Israel, and have stressed this point to the Arab states and nations. Now, with the colonialist peace plan prepared by Egypt and Israel, this threat has become greater and more grave.

By accepting such a peace plan, As-Sadat made his dependence on the U.S. colonialist administration more obvious. One cannot expect more from a friend of the former shah. Iran considers the As-Sadat-Israeli peace plan a betrayal of Islam and Muslims, as well as the Arab brethren. It confirms its support for the political stand taken by the opposing countries. God bless you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

TEHRAN DEMONSTRATORS CONDEMN ISRAEL-EGYPT TREATY

LD251806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] During their march today thousands of men and women in Tehran strongly condemned the bilateral treaty between Egypt and Israel. The demonstrators, carrying banners bearing slogans against Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Begin and U.S. President Jimmy Carter, marched through the streets of Tehran. After gathering in front of the Egyptian Embassy, they strongly condemned the signing of the bilateral treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Students Occupy Egyptian Embassy

LD260830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A few minutes ago, the Iranian Foreign Ministry reported that the Egyptian Embassy in Tehran has been occupied by Arab students.

PRIME MINISTER BAZARGAN ADDRESSES TABRIZ RALLY

LD251624 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1124 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan at rally in Tabriz stadium on 25 March--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: I would have wished--and it would have been more appropriate--to have spoken in the Turkish language. [audience chants: "Bazargan, Khomeyni"] However, regrettably I do not speak the language. I am the undutiful son of this land! Consequently, let me begin by apologizing to you, as my speech may be a long one.

To begin with, I have the honor of conveying the greetings and congratulations of the members of the Provisional Government to the people of Azarbaijan, particularly Tabriz, on the occasion of the new year. Glory to the people of Tabriz, glory to the armed forces of Tabriz and other parts of Iran. They shall eternally enjoy the (?love) and respect of the country. If it was in Khuzestan where the dictatorship was strangled, it was here that following an uprising, the uprising which was staged on the 40th day after the Qom incidents and the subsequent events, the spinal chord of the dictatorship was crushed.

Our visit to Tabriz follows a mission assigned and a decision taken by the Council of Ministers, according to which it was decided that each cabinet minister should visit an area with which he has connections and convey the government's greetings to all parts, even the remotest parts of the country. Therefore, I should not have anything more to say. However, there seems to be a demand for a speech, as the present gathering proves.

There was a time when I was young, when I had the opportunity to study and think. In those days, I used to make two and at times four speeches each year. However, now, considering my age and involvements, I get tired of making two to four speeches.

What I would like to mention here is that whether you people speak or remain silent, these assemblies, and the kindness and understanding demonstrated in other cities on our visits to Qom, Esfahan--to some extent--as well as Abadan and Khorramshahr and now Tabriz, which are our biggest assets, are more eloquent than any utterances. On the other hand, your demands, wishes and requests are manifested in your expressions, in your eyes, your letters and your utterances.

In the course of this visit and even in Tehran, I am constantly faced with two heavy loads, two loads which are very heavy on our weak shoulders, my shoulders as well as those of my colleagues in the government. At times we regret it, asking ourselves what we have done to deserve this grave responsibility and this mission.

In 1927, when I was a member of the first student group being sent abroad for further education, a group consisting of 100 students--forgive me for going back that far; the point is that old men and old women always like to recall the past, thus asserting their identity and involving themselves in the affairs of the people and younger generation--in any case, in those days, the students' supervisory office used to pay us a minimal allowance, that is pocket money. However, this office was responsible for travel expenses, housing, education, food and so forth. Moreover, it also paid us 150 francs.

The following year, it was decided to pay each student 1,800 francs and have him take care of all his own expenses, such as travel expenses, education, living, food, housing and the rest. Once this decision was taken, one of our friends, who had worked for a couple of years, unlike myself, and who was a smart young man, protested. He complained that it was better before. I asked him why; now they have given us responsibility and treat us like adults. Before that we were treated like children needing to be looked after in such things as clothes, shoes, educational fees; whereas now the students supervisory office is treating us like adults. He said: Yes, in those days, we had nothing to worry about, whereas now at the beginning of the month I spend the 1,800 francs allowance, being left with nothing to spend for the rest of the month.

I gave you this example in order to note that to have a position, authority, freedom, growing up and being treated like adults requires the acceptance of hard work and responsibility. You are either a parasite in this world, needing to be ordered by others, in which case you are a captive and a dependant, which is fine; however, if one wants freedom, humanity and responsibility, then one must exert oneself, then one must be [word indistinct] and independent, being able to run one's own affairs.

We had 2,500 years of tyranny. This tyranny, which we always condemned and cursed, was not all that bad; it guaranteed our lives. This is tyranny, namely, a shah or a government emerges, enslaves the people and in return provides them with a livelihood, bread and water, security, schools, hospitals, safeguards their borders. This is the meaning of tyranny.

Should one wish to translate this within the framework of nature, relations between dictatorships and nations are like relations between nature or creation and plants and animals.

After the victory of the revolution, we find ourselves facing two phenomena, or two new tasks: On the one hand, people have begun speaking and writing, and they say what they have in their hearts or what they can express in writing, including protest, criticism, demands and so on. The other new phenomenon is that the nation is in a state of transition. The nation has appointed committees which interfere in various ways. These two phenomena, or these two situations, constitute a new development which did not exist before. At present, we are under pressure and caused discomfort and pain from both sides; I will talk about the second phenomenon first.

Now for the first issue that the government encountered, of which I spoke and complained in a television speech: These committees. Since these committees are active and interfere in our affairs, we ought to first settle this issue. We ought first to tie down their hands and feet. [applause]

Before I explore these two phenomenon and these two developments and settle our accounts, let me say a few words about the first phenomenon, because of the demands being made on us. And thank God also that Engineer Moqaddam has not overlooked anything. This has no bearing on individuals or the government; it is because of my concern over a return from revolution to despotism. If you can be patient with me, I will explain.

Yesterday when we were in Khorramshahr and Abadan, in a short time and during the brief opportunity we were given, we received about 40 written petitions, some of which we looked at in the airplane and the rest yesterday and some today. I would just like to given an example as to what kinds of requests were made. Tehran radio and television initiated the "Illustrated Letters" program a while ago, and I, in accordance with the instruction issued, sat in front of the (?set) and listened to it.

Now the kind of requests: When I was speaking in Abadan stadium, a lady pushed her way through and handed over a letter, and she was standing there waiting for the reply. Dr Madani was there. It was like the story of Sheykh (?Tarna) who said: I want money, I want a lot of money and right now. Consequently, I stopped my speech there and then and read that letter. I noticed that the lady had written: I am the wife of a man who is a member of the NIOC; he has two wives. He does not provide me with maintenance; could you issue instruction either to dismiss him from the NIOC or else to provide me with maintenance.

As you can see, 2,500 years of despotism accustomed the Iranian nation to only one source of goodness, benevolence, power and action, namely the shah, the monarch and the government, in the sense that everything should be sought from this source. To ask the government for everything including social security, welfare shelter and a living; asking someone else implies acceptance of the power and wealth of the other party. Basically, despotism is created by this very kind of expectation that is made of the leader and the monarch. Despotic governments and monarchs accepted this type of mentality. They want the people not to possess honor, individuality, credibility and capability, but want them to be dependent so that they can maintain their power. This is true, and do not be surprised at my saying so, and recalling when the shah used to say: I want to lead you to a great civilization. This was true and was based on goodwill: He really wanted the Iranian nation to attain the highest position as a world power and possess a great civilization. This was a requirement, and constituted the very psychology,of tyranny, that he should regard himself obliged and proud to give everything to the nation and to the people, even leading them to a great civilization. He had even said, and I remember this well: I will lead this nation to a great civilization even if it means by force.

If the revolutionary government follows the same path, it will have betrayed the nation and the revolution. A nation that begs with hand and mouth and asks the government for everything admits and proves its inability and helplessness, which means bondage and acceptance of all misery and poverty whether on account of the government or on account of neighbors and aliens.

When I say revolution, I do not think of anger, demonstrations, marches and killings only, but what is more valuable, that is the inner revolution, which is the source of and a guarantee for victory and immortality. This has been well put in the Koran. God will not change a people unless they change their own selves. What I congratulate myself, you and everyone else for is this very inner change and revolution in the country, which is truly taking place at this time. I begin with the religious leadership: You see that a religious leadership which accepted seclusion for 12 centuries in chambers and theological schools and taught jurisprudence and theology under certain limitations, that is in isolation from society, and had nothing to do with the people and their problems or with practical issues of management, suddenly found itself caught up in a tremendous process of change, and you see how it has come onto the scene.

You here in Tabriz celebrated the 40th day anniversary of the first day of demonstrations in Qom, and you suffered greatly for doing so. But the first day of those demonstrations in Qom was the first time in recent Iranian history that unanimity of views among the religious leaders of Qom became manifest. This was one of the gifts of the revolution. As His Eminence Shari'at-Madari said--I believe it was a week after that event, in the Azam Mosque or in some other place--the guarantee of our success is the oneness of speech and the speech about the One. This unity came into being in Iran although it did not exist before.

As I said before, our religious leaders entered the field of action and felt a sense of responsibility. They felt a sense of duty toward the people and engaged in leadership of the people. They joined the battle and took charge of the committees.

But of course sometimes there are problems. Sometimes these committees go so far as to issue an order deposing the head of a department who has been appointed and sent out from Tehran. Sometimes they keep him imprisoned in a house and later appoint another person in his place. Well, we endure this because their intention is right, because they led the revolution, because they have assumed its leadership, and because they are the true leaders.

Look at the bazaar merchants, who at one time were only concerned about their shops and their puny profits. They closed their shops for months. They closed their workshops and took part in the committees, in marches through the streets, in guarding the streets and getting killed in the streets. They took their money and gave it to others while also taking care of their own livelihood.

The women, some of whom had done nothing except rest and paint themselves, and others who regarded themselves as very pious, good Muslims who stayed in a corner, they came out actively in support of the men. Those who at one time were only interested in their own decoration have now turned toward chastity and piety. A foreign reporter who interviewed a female student at Tehran University wrote that he had asked her why she wore the chador. He asked why she was dressed like that and whether it was not a retrogressive action. The girl replied: No, this is an antidictatorial action. Because the court and the administration and the government are against the veil and against Islam and against freedom, we show our solidarity and our devotion in this way.

The girls came out and formed societies, seminars and discussion sessions. They even took up weapons and used them against the enemies. I hope they won't use them against their husbands!

We truly enjoy and appreciate the activities of these guardians of the revolution, of those who have given up their own time, their comfort, their everything. We appreciate the fact that they so willingly guard the revolution and cooperate with us in spite of deprivation.

By chance, I met the head of policy in the city of Qom. He was formerly a student in the religious teachers training college. There were two people in civilian clothes with him. I asked him what their position was, and he replied that both of them were among the guardians of the revolution and members of the revolutionary committees. Among these people I witnessed such devotion, discipline, sincerity and obedience that, believe me, I became much more hopeful about the success of the revolution.

We ought to utilize this spirit of cooperation, unity, sacrifice and movement and good management for participation in the country's administration and responsibility. It ought to be the government's duty, insofar as possible, to regulate this cooperation, readiness and solidarity between the members of the nation and their government, of which we are daily witnesses and which, as I said, is a heavy burden of responsibility on our shoulders. It is the government's duty to direct this spirit so that, instead of conflict and irritation, it may serve the interest, independence and well-being of the nation.

The government should use its power and the means at its disposal to reduce what was a necessary aspect of dictatorship and, on the contrary, leave the work to the people and the nation and make them true partners in the affairs of the country. The older people among you will recall that the general policy of the cursed Pahlavi dynasty, both at the time of the former shah and that of his father, was to belittle and bypass as much as possible the profession of the bazaar merchants and the private sector and the people.

The old regime, when Davar became the minister of finance, formed companies--the company of wool, skin and cotton, the textile company, the sheep company, the tobacco company, the transportation company, and so on--so that they captured all that was in the hands of the people, even shepherding and the slaughtering of sheep and even the use of gum trees--everything. Thus, they made the people poor, needy and abject so that they could not complain and speak against the shah.

The revolutionary government, the Islamic government, should have a program and policy quite contrary to this. It should, insofar as possible, give the people respect and dignity. It should give the nation a share and seek its partnership so that the nation itself will be self-sufficient and will take charge of its own affairs. Of course, nowhere in the world is the government completely idle. It has certain duties such as safeguarding the borders of the country and the defense of the nation.

This is the duty of the government everywhere, of course again with the cooperation of the people and the army. Foreign policy is also the duty of the government. The control and the guiding of the national economy is the responsibility of the government, because the government sees the problem from a wider horizon and can thus bring about coordination, progress and orderliness in the economy. The government should take on the roles of supervision, coordination and guidance and should try to lead the people to the goal of looking after their own affairs. Of course this cannot be done on an individual basis, but in a social manner, in an orderly manner, in a regulated manner.

This is why I have thought that, God willing, after returning to Tehran I would, in consultation with my colleague, create a new position, appoint a new deputy prime minister to serve alongside the deputy in charge of revolutionary matters and the deputy in charge of transition. A deputy in charge of cooperation will be appointed, and he can involve the people in the affairs of the country by making use of their spirit, energy and willingness, which already exists and which is a necessary accompaniment of revolution and reform. Thus, the government can move in the direction of making the best use of all these possibilities and this collaboration. I hope someone will volunteer to become prime minister so that I can accept the post and the responsibility of becoming deputy prime minister in charge of increasing the cooperation of the people--people with people and people with government. The person who accepts this position should above all believe that the necessary prerequisite for dignity, honor, personality, freedom, independence and the happiness of God and the people is mass participation of the people in their own affairs, shouldering responsibilities, and being self-sufficient. In the second place, the various classes of people should have faith in this sincerity, in this respect. I have been active in this field for years. If it was decided to build a mosque in some place I always fought and opposed the idea that the mosque should be built by any one person. The true mosque is the mosque that is not built in any one person's name, but by many anonymous people contributing 100 toman or even just 5 toman toward its construction.

This is the program that I followed for many years and pressed for by means of societies and companies and, thanks be to God, it produced excellent results without being in any way identified with my name. Like something genuine which had developed out of the soil of Iran, it can now be seen everywhere. Now one of the duties and programs of the revolution which I present to you as an invitation to accept responsibility, is that all of us should collaborate in the path of service and cooperation, and sharing the work of the country and its independence and glory. God's greetings be upon you.

KHUZESTAN TRIBESMEN REAFFIRM SOLIDARITY WITH REVOLUTION

LD231355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Thousands of people and tribesmen from Khuzestan met in Takhti stadium in Ahvaz today in order to reaffirm their solidarity with the Islamic movement in Iran under the leadership of the Imam Khomeyni, and to voice their backing for the Islamic republic. His Eminence the Ayatollah Khaqani, one of the religious authorities from Khorramshahr, said during the rally: We are going through a sensitive juncture and the enemies of Islam are using every means in their attempt to set up a barrier to the movement. He added: The best thing is to act in accordance with the law of the Koran.

INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS ON SETTLING LAND STATUS

LD231518 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following announcements were made public today by His Excellency Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, minister of interior:

Announcement No 1: In the name of Almighty God, to Muslim brothers in the regions of Gorgan and Gonbad: As a result of the collapse of the corrupt dictatorship regime and in order to provide for the welfare of the people of those regions, a special task force has been dispatched that will be stationed in Gonbad and Gorgan. After studying the restoration of the legitimate rights of the farmers, decisions have been made in such cases and are announced hereby:

1. All lands and pastures that were taken over by force, or the ownership of which is in dispute, will be placed under government control effective this date until their fate can be determined. Likewise, planting and harvesting of crops on such lands will take place only under government supervision.

2. The special task force for solving the region's problems will enter into discussion with local representatives and trustworthy persons of the region, and agreement will be reached with the said representatives about planting, maintaining and harvesting crops.

3. The special task force is dutybound to conduct its studies as soon as possible and to present its suggestions to the government.

4. The Ministry of Interior is dutybound to take action to release controlled lands immediately after receiving the pertinent report. All of our Muslim brothers of the Gorgan and Gonbad region are expected to cooperate and support the member of the special task force.

Announcement No 2: In the name of Almighty God, following Announcement No 1 regarding the regions of Gorgan and Gonbad, necessary actions will be taken regarding the following cases:

1. All agricultural organizations will be placed under government control effective this date, and their crops will be harvested under government supervision.

2. All agricultural workers who were working in these organizations will continue their duties under the supervision of the members of the special task force.

3. The special task force is dutybound to complete its studies as soon as possible, and to present its suggested plans to the government.

4. The Ministry of Interior is dutybound to take action to release controlled lands immediately after receiving the pertinent report from the special task force.

The above cases also hold true in the case of cattle that are located within the above-described agricultural domains, and will be treated the same way with respect to maintenance and studies. It is obvious the government expects that all residents of the region will sincerely cooperate with the members of the special task force.

[Signed] Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, minister of interior.

NEW KHUZESTAN POLICE CHIEF NAMED

LD251802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Col Ali Hushmand has been appointed by the national police force as supervisor of Khuzestan province police departments. He arrived in Ahvaz yesterday afternoon. Imam Khomeyni's activity headquarters issued a statement asking the people and personnel of the police departments in Khuzestan to cooperate, with the utmost goodwill, with the supervisor of Khuzestan's police departments. It was announced today that Colonel Hushmand was no relation of Brigadier General Hushmand, the former police chief of Khuzestan.

MINIMUM VOTING AGE IN REFERENDUM SET AT 16

LD251136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In a notice published today, the Interior Ministry announced that the minimum age to vote in the forthcoming referendum is 16 years.

ESFAHAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS CAUTION VOTERS

DO251849 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1803 GMT 25 Mar 79 DO

[Text] Dear listeners, please listen to a message from their eminences Ayatollahs (Kazemi) and (Taheri): In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful: Lately it has been said that using various pretexts, certain centers [as heard] have been gathering people's identity cards. It is the duty of every qualified person to participate personally in the referendum on Friday, 10 Farvardin 58 [30 March 79] and the identity card must be brought along. Consequently, for no reason whatsoever should a person give his identity card to another individual or group.

NVOI ON 'YEAR OF VICTORY,' NATIONALIZATION OF OIL

TA231554 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 22 March carries a commentary entitled "The Year 1357 Was the Year of Victory," reviewing the events in the Iranian year 1357 which led to the overthrow of the shah's regime. The commentary begins its review by mentioning the fighting in Tabriz, where "the people fought against the shah's fully armed reactionary and despotic forces." It says: "The fighters of Tabriz suffered hundreds of dead and thousands of wounded, but refused to give up."

The commentary stresses in this context that "people's patience and tolerance had been exhausted, and one could see everywhere the people's determination to continue the just and holy war against Pahlavi's bloodthirsty regime until final victory."

The commentary says: "Waves of violent struggle began to sweep the country from the early days of 1357. The country's disarmed but iron-willed people struggling for independence and freedom were confronted by the shah and his American masters--by tens of thousands of U.S. military advisers and thousands of traitorous, ruthless and bloodthirsty SAVAK agents, police and gendarmes. Iranian people were firm and determined. They fought bravely and suffered losses in every part of the country, but refused to lower the banner of the struggle. Seeing his bloodstained throne in danger, the now homeless shah resorted to desperate last minute crimes, treason and conspiracies, but it was too late." The commentary adds that as a result of the people's struggle, "the nest of treason and crime, the monarchic regime collapsed."

The commentary then says that "the shah's being compelled to flee the country constituted the first major victory for the people." And that "in spite of Bakhtiar's underhanded opposition, the free Iranian people's religious leader Imam Khomeyni succeeded in returning to the country and personally taking over the leadership of the revolution. This insured the revolution's victory."

The commentary concludes: "The year 1357 was our struggling people's year of victory. This victory was won at the cost of blood shed by tens of thousands of Iranian men and women, and the struggle waged and sacrifices made by Iran's millions of freedom-loving people. To strengthen and protect this victory is the holy task of every patriotic Iranian. Iran's struggling people are celebrating their first free new year with unprecedented pride and joy."

The radio then carries a commentary entitled "Key to Iranian People's Happiness and World Peace." The commentary recalls that, 28 years ago on 20 March, the bill introduced by the Mosaddeq government for the nationalization of Iran's oil was endorsed. The Iranian people wanted the imperialists' hands off the Iranian oil, the commentary says. The commentary then refers to Mosaddeq's role in nationalizing the oil, and says: "During his 2-year rule, Dr Muhammad Mosaddeq did a great deal to meet the Iranian people's aspirations, and his name will be cherished forever. He struggled with all his power to achieve nationalization. But greedy and aggressive imperialism, with the help of Pahlavi's (?supporters), launched a coup on 19 August and overthrew Mosaddeq's legitimate government. Thus imperialism and its oil cartel restored their control over Iran's oil wealth."

After noting that following the coup the shah's despotic regime was reimposed on the Iranian people, the commentary concludes: "With the victory of the revolution, the Pahlavi's wicked and corrupt regime, which yielded the country's oil wealth to imperialism, has been destroyed. By destroying Muhammad Reza's rotten monarchy and paving the way to a republic, our people's revolution has prepared the ground for the implementation of what Mosaddeq wanted to do 28 years ago. In the interests of the Iranian nation's prosperity and world peace, all the struggling people from religious leaders to workers, all progressive organizations and all revolutionary fighters support the oil nationalization law and its effective implementation."

AFGHANISTAN

DECLARATION ON PAKISTAN'S INTERFERENCE ISSUED

BK231652 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 23 Mar 79 BK

[Apparent text of an undated declaration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] Our revolutionary, brave and patriotic people are aware that the revolutionary and (?people's) state of Afghanistan right from the beginning, on the successful [words indistinct] of the Sawr Revolution, explicitly declared that Afghanistan is desirous of having good relations with neighboring countries and has a need for and a great interest in peace in the region and in the world so that it could implement its revolutionary programs in the interest of the toiling people of Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, it has been noted that international reaction, imperialism and extreme leftists create obstructions in the path of our revolution by various plots and conspiracies. Also [words indistinct] their interests at stake and because of fear of being tried by the people escaped abroad and across the borders, sought refuge in the lap of their masters. The names of [words indistinct] given to the enemies of our people in an exaggerated form in the lands of Pakhtoons and Baluchs and the centers of Pakistan--Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

In a center of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, a headquarters has been established. Their radios and newspapers and reactionary politicians of that country publish the names and give their [word indistinct].

According to some news agencies and other sources, the reactionary groups are being trained and camped in (?these places) for subversive operations in Afghanistan. Instructors from some [word indistinct] imperialistic countries and extreme leftist aggressors assist in training them and equipping them with arms and also rendering financial assistance and publicity means in order to make repeated [word indistinct] and aggressive intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

(?It is regretted) in this context by the Afghan authorities that the Government of Pakistan, which speaks of friendship and good relations, the activities of these elements not only did not end but got more intense and more expanded. [as heard]

The brave and honest toilers and the courageous people of Afghanistan [words indistinct]. The people of Afghanistan, both men and women, and old and young will preserve the unity of their [words indistinct] deal strong blows to the enemies of their beloved country and of the Sawr Revolution and will bring down to earth the (?dirty) aspirations of the reactionary leaders of Pakistan with the [word indistinct] of the successful Sawr Revolution.

All the brave and heroic sons of the country, wherever they may be and whatever capacity engaged in presently about the work in the country are invited to endeavor greatly so that their enemies could not [words indistinct] and to turn them over to the government authorities wherever they found them [words indistinct].

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS INCIDENT IN MASHHAD

JN241809 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official source has stated that a number of religious [word indistinct] workers in Iran have attacked the Afghan Consulate in Mashhad as a part of a series of acts of religious division and activities against the toiling masses of Afghanistan.

They pulled down and burned the flag of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

This aggressive act has been repeated against Afghanistan and against the Afghan Embassy in Tehran despite the protests made to Iran's provisional government by the Afghan Government. Despite the fact that the Afghan Government explained in detail the repercussions of such acts to Iranian officials, considering them contrary to the UN Charter and international treatment of [words indistinct] and respecting the flags of other countries, the Iranian Government has not taken any measures against these acts.

Therefore, the Afghan Foreign Ministry (?summoned) the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kabul this afternoon and presented him with Afghanistan's protest over this painful incident against the Afghan Consulate General in Mashhad.

[Words indistinct] and warns the reactionary religious leaders of Iran that if such acts are repeated, they will be held responsible for the consequences.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY REGAINS CONTROL OF HERAT

BK241433 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 24 Mar 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP)--The Afghan Government seems to be back in control of Herat, where a rebellion had been in progress since March 12, foreigners in Kabul told AGENCIE FRANCE PRESS today.

But the road from the capital to Herat remained cut, and telephone communications have not resumed. That city is more than 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) northwest of Kabul.

In Kabul itself the situation is calm. But there were continued rumours of fighting around Chigha Sarai, the capital of the eastern province of Konar 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Khyber Pass.

Authorities have officially instructed foreigners not to go more than 15 kilometres (10 miles) from Kabul without permission, unless taking the road to Torkham on the Pakistani border.

PAKISTAN

PROTEST ISSUED TO AFGHANISTAN OVER FIRING INCIDENT

BK251644 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Pakistan has strongly protested to Afghanistan for having fired on a refugee camp in its territory.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon in which it was stated that the firing took place on the 13th of this month in a border area of Koram Agency.

The spokesman said that the Afghan ambassador in Islamabad was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was handed a protest note regarding the incident. The spokesman said that the Afghan ambassador was told that the Pakistani Government notes with concern the violation of its territory and hopes that incidents of this nature will not reoccur. The Afghan ambassador was told that the Pakistani Government, in the context of its friendly and goodneighborly relations with Afghanistan, has acted with restraint and decided not to retaliate against the incident.

The Afghan ambassador was also told that the Pakistani Government respects the policies of noninterference in each other's internal affairs and the inviolability of international boundaries and sincerely desires friendly relations. It hopes that the Afghan Government will also respect these policies and maintain friendly relations.

The Afghan ambassador was told that his government cannot avoid responsibility for the consequences stemming from violation of these policies.

The spokesman also referred to a statement of the Afghan Government last Thursday in which it made baseless accusations against Pakistan and stated that Pakistani media were indulging in a propaganda campaign against Afghanistan. In addition, the concocted and irresponsible reports of foreign news agencies were also repeated in the statement, which noted that Afghan terrorists were being trained in Pakistani camps to carry out sabotage activities in Afghanistan. Expressing his amusement at the way these false and mischievous reports were being officially published, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it seems that this is the way the Afghan Government was trying to divert the people's attention from the intense internal difficulties and the rebellion in southwestern Herat.

The spokesman said that Afghan aircraft have been violating Pakistan's air space. The Afghan Government was warned that these incidents should not occur, because the situation might deteriorate. No such incident occurred after this warning.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that reports that Pakistan is stationing troops in the frontier province are false. He said that Pakistan does not consider the movement of Afghan troops in border areas as an action against her, because Pakistan believes that these actions are carried out to deal with internal disturbances in Afghanistan.

Commenting on the statement made by the president of Pakistan urging for the settlement of disputes with Afghanistan, the spokesman said that Pakistan had had talks with the former Government of Afghanistan on the matter and intends to continue negotiations with the present government as well.

The spokesman said that it was strange that despite Pakistan's explanations, baseless and false reports on Afghan refugees were published in the Soviet newspapers IZVESTIYA and PRAVDA.

Referring to the accusations of hostile propaganda by Radio Pakistan, the spokesman said that there is no hostile attitude toward Afghanistan in Radio Pakistan broadcasts. The spokesman said that Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan has been repeatedly publicized; even our president has explained that we seek friendly relations with Afghanistan on the basis of peaceful coexistence, respect for international boundaries and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The change in government was Afghanistan's internal affair. Pakistan has expressed new attitudes toward the new Afghan Government in particular. We have invited the Afghan president and the Afghan minister of trade to visit Pakistan. Pakistan has offered special transit facilities to Afghanistan and assistance in other fields.

The spokesman said that Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan is not hostile and aggressive. The spokesman said that our position becomes difficult when the Afghan Government accuses us on the basis of fictitious incidents and baseless foreign newspaper reports.

In view of this, Pakistan felt the need to explain its position. The spokesman said that the statement today also proves that our policy toward Afghanistan has not changed nor do we have any hostility toward it.

AFGHAN REFUGEES WARNED AGAINST HARMING RELATIONS

BK241547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has repeated that it earnestly desires to take every possible step to maintain friendly relations with all neighboring countries, especially with Afghanistan, with which it has long-standing relations. These relations should be based on the policies of peaceful coexistence and noninterference.

The Government of Pakistan has said that some of the Afghan refugees who have taken shelter in Pakistan have been holding news conferences, making statements or supplying information to newspapers about the internal situation in Afghanistan. The government has said that these people have been given shelter until they return to their homeland. But this does not mean that they should indulge in activities which are against the laws of the country or do anything by which Pakistan's relations with neighboring countries are adversely affecting the hospitality accorded them.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS BHUTTO'S REVIEW PETITION

BK240633 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court today unanimously rejected the review petition by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The petition had requested a review of the Supreme Court's judgment upholding the Lahore High Court's death sentence in the Nawab Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case.

When the court began its session this morning to announce its decision, the chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, disclosed that the judgment had been written by Mr Justice Mohammad Akram. He said Mr Justice Dorab Patel has written a brief note in which he represented his point of view on the judgment. The chief justice announced: We all unanimously decided to reject the review petition.

The Supreme Court began hearing the review petition on the 24th of last month, and it lasted 13 days. The defense counsel took 10 days to present his arguments and the prosecution took about a day. Upon completion of the arguments by the defense counsel the court on 17 March had reserved its judgment.

The case had been taken up by the full bench of the Lahore High Court in September 1977 and lasted for 70 days. The High Court announced its decision on 18 March 1978.

All judges of the Supreme Court heard the appeal against the High Court Judgment from 20 May until 23 December.

Arguments for Clemency Ruled Relevant

BK240924 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Mar 79 BK

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court has rejected the review petition filed by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in the Nawab Mohammad Ahmad Khan murder case.

The court, in its 153-page judgment, said: After making a detailed study of the lengthy submissions presented by the defense counsel, we have come to the conclusion that there is no doubt whatsoever that the defense counsel had tried to repeat the same points in the review petition that had been stated earlier by him during the appeal and on which a lengthy debate has already taken place. The judgment says: The shortcomings and errors pointed out by the defense counsel are not of much significance and do not affect the final judgment of the court. These factors also do not in any way affect the court's decision to uphold the sentence of the accused for various reasons. Hence, the review petition proved unsuccessful and is thus being dismissed.

The judgment also stated: Although we have not found it possible in law to review the sentence of death on the grounds urged by Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, these are relevant for consideration by the executive authorities in the exercise of their powers for granting clemency.

In his brief note Mr Justice Dorab Patel, in expressing his opinion on the sentence, stated that arguments for reducing the sentence should have been presented during the course of the appeal. Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem and Mr Justice Safdar Shah agreed with the note of Mr Justice Dorab Patel and stated they also are in agreement with the dismissal of the review petition.

'Indefinite Adjournment' in Bhutto Appeal

BK251724 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The proceedings of an amended petition of Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto praying for the stay of execution of the death sentence awarded to Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was adjourned indefinitely by the Supreme Court today at the request of the petitioner's counsel.

The Supreme Court bench consisted of Mr Justice Mohammed Akram and Mr Justice Dorab Patel.

TROOPS FIRE ON PRO-BHUTTO CROWDS IN KASHMIR TOWNS

BK251432 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 25 Mar 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 25 March (AFP)--The Pakistan army opened fire in Palandri, Rawalkot and Bag in Kashmir yesterday to disperse violent pro-Bhutto demonstrators, according to delayed reports reaching Poonch in Jammu in India-held Kashmir.

The demonstrators, protesting against the rejection of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's review petition by the Pakistan Supreme Court, damaged property and set fire to vehicles.

The Pakistani troops patrolling these towns opened fire to bring the situation under control, the reports added. The casualty figure was not known.